

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.”⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.”⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.⁹Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Psalm 119:129-136

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words.²⁷And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he

not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”
³⁷No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”



The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls

MATTHEW 13:45

Immanuel Lutheran Church

PO Box 415 34606 E. 2450 N. Rd. Colfax, IL 61728
(309)723-5091 immanuelcolfax@hotmail.com

Pastor Michael Jones 309-357-3864 mikechris1@gmail.com
Council President: Eli Petersen 815-848-2155 ejpetersen4@gmail.com
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 - 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, July 26, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR MICHAEL JONES

Lay Reader: Lisa Winterland

Greeters: Terry & Kay Bose

Ushers/Acolytes: Elton & Spring Mau

Communion: na

Organist: Cindy Wilson

Sunday, August 2, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR MICHAEL JONES

Lay Reader: Angie Kratochvil

Greeters: Harlan B., Sharon Hardesty

Ushers/Acolytes: Jerry & Suzie Kukuck

Communion: John & Cindy Harris

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, Florence Schultz (Cindy Wilson's mom)

Announcements

LWR Quilting - We will be knotting quilts on Tuesday, July 28th from 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Newcomers are welcome to enjoy some conversation and help others in need at the same time! Questions, see Dee Winterland.

Sunday, August 9 – Please join us for worship at the Pavilion in downtown Colfax for Community Worship at 10:00 am. A Potluck lunch will follow after the service. **We will not have a service at Immanuel on that day.** More details will be announced soon.

Saturday, August 8 – 10:00 am Colfax Parade on Main Street. Immanuel will be participating in the Good Ole' Days parade. We will be looking for adults and children to walk or ride with us again.

It's almost 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!

Thank you to everyone who contributed clothing and other items to the Ridgeview School.



Hosted By:
Immanuel
Lutheran
Church



COLFAX COMMUNITY

*Worship
Service*

AUGUST 9TH, 2026 AT 10AM

Join us for worship at 10AM at the pavilion on main street. Lunch will be provided by Immanuel at the VFW following the service. Bring your lawn chairs!



Pastor
MICHAEL JONES

Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW 533

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. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from 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 1 Kings 3:5-12 back of bulletin

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

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

PSALM Psalm 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.

Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

READING Romans 8:26-39 back of bulletin

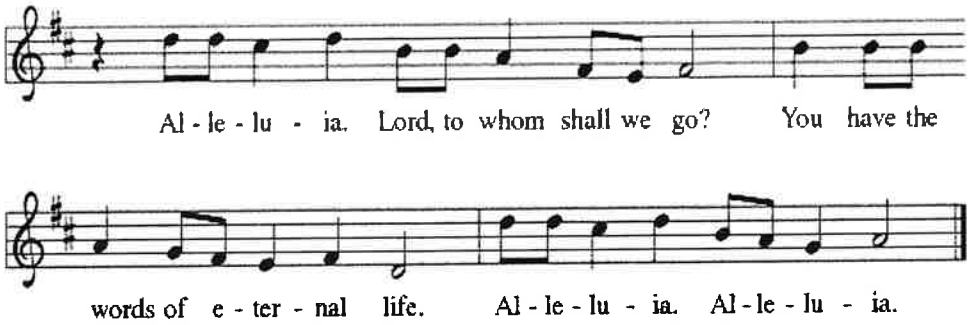
These words celebrate the depth of God’s actions for us. Through Christ’s death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God’s love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

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 13:31-33, 44-52 back of bulletin

The Gospel is announced:

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

Throughout Matthew’s gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near!” Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people’s lives.

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

The congregation may be seated

CHILDREN’S SERMON / NOISY OFFERING

SERMON Pastor Michael Jones

HYMN OF DAY *Be Thou My Vision* ELW 793

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: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each petition: P: God of Grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **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

Go My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE