



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church

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Immanuel means “God With Us”

Reformation Sunday

October 26, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

LBW Page 77

☞ In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

☛ Amen.

☞ Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☛ Amen.

☞ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C We confess that we are in bondage to sin
and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy,
has given his Son to die for us
and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

John 20:21-23

C Amen.



1. A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

2. No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

3. Though hordes of devils fill the land
All threatn'ing to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgement must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4. God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

*GREETING

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

☛ **And also with you.**

*RESPONSIVE READING

On this Reformation Sunday we remember Martin Luther and the other Reformers and their faithful confession of the Christian faith. We echo the words of the Lutheran Reformers.

☞ We pledge ourselves to the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments

☛ **As the pure and clear fountain of Israel which is the only true norm according to which all teachers and teachings are to be judged and evaluated.**

☞ We further pledge allegiance to the three general Creeds, the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian,

☛ **As the glorious confessions of the faith — succinct, Christian, and based upon the Word of God.**

☞ We confess our adherence to the first, unaltered edition of the Augsburg Confession.

☛ **We do so not because it was produced by our theologians but because it is taken from God's Word and is firmly and solidly grounded in it.**

☞ We also pledge ourselves unanimously to the Small and Large Catechisms of Dr. Luther.

☛ **These Catechisms summarize Christian teaching from God's Word for ordinary laity in a most correct and simple, yet sufficiently explicit, form.**

☞ It is taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions,

☛ **But that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.**

***HYMN, “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage” LBW Hymn 239**

God’s Word is our great heritage *Green Book*
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last
Your Church may hold it fast
Throughout all generations.

Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig (1783-1872)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together . . .

C Almighty God, gracious Lord,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people.
Keep them steadfast in your Word,
protect and comfort them in all temptations,
defend them against all their enemies,
and bestow on the Church your saving peace;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR, “God Is With Us”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

SONG, “The B-I-B-L-E”

The B-I-B-L-E — Yes, that’s the book for me.
I stand alone on the Word of God — the B-I-B-L-E.

The B-I-B-L-E — Yes, that’s the book for me.
I love to hear the stories from the B-I-B-L-E.

FIRST READING, Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

℟ The Word of the Lord.

(NRSV)

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 46

℟ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

☞ **Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains
be toppled into the depths of the sea;**

℟ Though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

☞ **The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

℟ There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

☞ **God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown;
God shall help her at the break of day.**

℟ The nations make much ado,
and the kingdoms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

**☞ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

℟ Come now and look upon the works of the LORD;
what awesome things he has done on earth.

**☞ It is he who makes wars cease in all the world;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
and burns the shields with fire.**

℟ “Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”

**☞ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

(BCP / LBW)

SECOND READING, Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

(NRSV)

℟ The Word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

***HYMN, “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast” (v. 1) LBW Hymn 230**

1. Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; *Green Book*
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son
And bring to nought all he has done. *Martin Luther (1483-1546)*

***GOSPEL, Luke 18:9-14**

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 18th chapter.

👉 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

📖 Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

📖 The Gospel of the Lord. *(NRSV)*

👉 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN, “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast” (vv. 2-3) LBW Hymn 230

2. Lord Jesus Christ, your pow’r make known, *Green Book*
For you are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your holy Church, that we
May sing your praise triumphantly.

3. O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

SERMON

Pastor David James Baer

1. Salvation unto us has come
By God’s free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our mediator.

2. Theirs was a false, misleading dream
Who thought God’s law was given
That sinners might themselves redeem
And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright
To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.

3. And yet the Law fulfilled must be,
Or we were lost forever;
Therefore God sent his Son that he
Might us from death deliver.
He all the Law for us fulfilled,
And thus his Father’s anger stilled
Which over us impended.

4. Faith clings to Jesus’ cross alone
And rests in him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

5. All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by his grace,
All glory to his merit.
O triune God in heav’n above,
You have revealed your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

Paul Speratus (1484-1554)

P Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

P Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P Do you renounce all the forces of evil,
the devil, and all his empty promises?

C **I do.**

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, the Son of God?

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 God 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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

P You have made public profession of your faith.
Do you intend to continue in the covenant
God made with you in Holy Baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear his Word and share in his supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ
through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Those making affirmation of faith respond:

R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these men and women your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.



OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

“Just As I Am, Without One Plea” is sung as the offerings are received.

HYMN, “*Just As I Am, Without One Plea*” LBW Hymn 296

1. Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd’st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6. Just as I am; thy love unknown
Has broken ev’ry barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 C Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Matthew 6:9-13

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face to shine upon you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor
 and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

Reformation
 ✠ LORD KEEP YOUR PEOPLE
 STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD ✠

***HYMN, “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” LBW Hymn 294**

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev’ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood
Sustain me in the raging flood;
When all supports are washed away,
He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before the throne!
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Edward Mote (1797-1874)

POSTLUDE

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PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:

Alex and family	Bill Burleson
Don Dubbe	Lenae Ebel
Shelley Iverson	Felicity Kramer
Dorothy Pulscher	Claire and Maxine Ripley
Connie Ross	Guyla Baer Sturgeon
Paul Swisher	Carletta and Steve Vasknetz
Anne Vossler	David Wanhannen

Kaleb (great grandson of Jean Sneesby)
Cheryl Anderson (sister of Corey Halverson)
Cherry Bieber (friend of Jon and Shelley Iverson)
Jody Blevins (daughter of Claire and Maxine Ripley)
Larry Conklin (brother of Claudia Christensen)
Marla Ebel (sister of Rita Shewmake)
Kris Eide (sister of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)
Melanie Erickson (sister of Brenda Rath)
Ellen Fiechtner (mother of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)
Steve Fiechtner (brother of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)
Ronnie Fischer (brother of Judy Haiwick)
Addie Graves (sister-in-law of Brandon and Alyssa Loll)
Ernie Griner (11-year-old friend of Meta Halverson)
June Halverson (mother of Corey Halverson)
Martina Ham (mother of Diane Kunz)
Ike Iverson (father of Jon Iverson)
Grace Iverson Johnson (daughter of Jon and Shelley Iverson)
Coleen Iverson-Routh (sister of Jon Iverson)
Steve Kampfe (son of Garland and Kathy Kampfe)
Callie Kvanvig (great niece of Ray Follum)
Lois Meyer (sister-in-law of Midge Hemeyer)
Michael and Jan Meyer (brother and sister-in-law of Midge Hemeyer)
Caren Miller (sister of Maxine Ripley)
Mitch Palmer (friend of Paul Swisher)
Roy Riley (grandson of Carol Vercoe)
Tim Ripley (friend of Paul Swisher)
Ava Rouvennolt (6-year-old girl with cancer, friend of Judy Haiwick)
Carreen Smith (sister of Mimi Swisher)
Jeremy Sundby (nephew of Claire and Maxine Ripley)
Jess Teigen (friend of Amelia Knutson)
Xayne Vroman (great grandson of Cindy and Harold Davis)
Traci Westberg (daughter-in-law of Tony and Alona Westberg)
Melissa Williams (friend of Mark and Mary Tracy)
Robert Zuhr (brother-in-law of Chris Burleson)
Zhuang People (unreached people group in China)
Thomas and Deuane Thorstad (NALC global workers in Southeast Asia)

A PANCAKE FEED will be held 7 a.m. to noon today at the Whitewood Fire Hall (just east of the church). A donation to support the work of the Whitewood Volunteer Fire Department will be received. Please support our firefighters.

STURGIS KIWANIS HOBO STEW FEED is 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. today at the Sturgis Community Center. This is an annual fund-raiser for their local youth projects. Tickets for all-you-can-eat Hobo Stew are \$10 and available in advance or at the door.

A CHILI AND SOUP COOKOFF is 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday at the Sturgis Community Center. The events is a fund raiser for the Sturgis Alliance of Churches. All donations received help those in need in the Sturgis area.

A TREASURED LIVES SURVIVOR PANEL will be presented at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, at St. Joseph's Hall at the Cathedral, 522 Cathedral Drive in Rapid City. Treasured Lives is an anti-sex trafficking organization that ministers to victims. It is one of the ministries supported by your gifts to Immanuel. Advanced tickets are required and are available online at www.treasuredlives.org/events.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is an opportunity to share God's love with a child by purchasing items to fill a shoe box as a Christmas gift. The shoe boxes are then shipped to needy children around the world by Samaritan's Purse. Shoe boxes (with instructions and suggestions inside) are available in the library social room. Please return your gift boxes to the church by Sunday, Nov. 23.

THOSE OVER AGE 70½ have the opportunity to take tax-free distributions from their IRAs for direct gifts to churches and other non-profit organizations. This is a significant tax benefit. Talk to your tax advisor, IRA custodian, or Pastor David for more information about Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD).

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT is taking place now until Dec. 7. Medicare prescription drug (Part D) and Medicare Advantage (Part C) plans should be reviewed annually. For more information go to www.medicare.gov or www.shiine.net.

BOOKS AND CULTURE DISCUSSION GROUP is a group that meets monthly at Immanuel to discuss recent important “secular” books that have broad cultural significance and consider their implications from a Christian perspective and biblical worldview. Please read the selected book to prepare for discussion with the group. The book for October is *The Coming Wave: AI, Power, and Our Future* by Mustafa Suleyman and Michael Bhaskar. Artificial intelligence and its related areas, including biotechnology and nanotechnology, will result in significant changes in our culture, the life of every person, and potential risks or benefits for human survival. The book is available from local bookstores and online. The group meets monthly and selects a book to be read for discussion. The next meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28. For more information talk to Doug Wessel who is leading the group.

WE ARE UPDATING OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY. If you have a new address or phone number or if there are other changes you’d like on your page in our church directory, please get those changes to Linda Beulke or Pastor David. If you’d like a new photo, you can get that to them too. If you worship at Immanuel, we’d like you to be in our directory. Remember that our directory is loose leaf so that we can update it regularly.

OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH is Pastors Thomas and Deuane Thorstad and their family who serve in the Mekong region of Southeast Asia. Pastor Tom is an NALC pastor. His wife, Pastor Deuane, is a pastor of the Lao Evangelical Church of Laos. They have three children. They are NALC global workers supported through Awakening Lives to World Mission. Their ministry work centers around Bible translation and theological education of pastors and lay leaders who live and serve in tribal areas of the unreached people groups of Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar. Over 86 percent of the people in those countries are considered unreached, with no less than a 0.05 percent Christian presence and no known Bible translation in their people’s language. Pastor Tom and Pastor Deuane work with local churches in those countries and have a strong relationship with the church leadership in those countries. You can learn more at www.alwm.org/laos-thailand. Mission of the Month highlights one of the ministries supported through your regular giving to Immanuel.

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL:

Today	9:00 a.m. — Worship 10:15 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship 10:25 a.m. — Adult Sunday School
Monday	7:00 a.m. — Men's Group
Tuesday	6:30 p.m. — Books and Culture group
Wednesday	4:30 p.m. — Kids Club 6:00 p.m. — Confirmation class
Thursday	5:30 p.m. — Choir rehearsal 6:30 p.m. — Light Supper 6:45 p.m. — Adult class on Solas
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m. — Worship 10:15 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship 10:25 a.m. — Adult Sunday School

WE ARE REVIEWING our mission giving in preparation for our 2026 budget. You can see our current mission giving in last year's annual report. If you have any suggestions for ministries that should be included in our giving or any suggested changes in our current giving, please talk to a Church Council member or Pastor David.

A MEN'S GROUP meets at 7 a.m. on Mondays at the church. They are currently studying the book of 1 Peter. All men are welcome. Talk to Mark Tracy or Jon Iverson for more information.

MEADE 46-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT will have a special School Board open forum meeting to discuss significant cuts to the district budget at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Sturgis Community Center. Changes at Whitewood Elementary School include eliminating fifth grade, eliminating talented and gifted program, and combining the principal position with rural schools. This may significantly impact Immanuel as Brit Porterfield, the current principal and STEM teacher in Whitewood, may be unable to continue serving as coordinator for our Kids Club if he is no longer employed in Whitewood.

WELCOME TO ALL who are worshiping with us today. We especially welcome our visitors. If you are unfamiliar with our worship, one of our members will gladly assist you. Visitors, please be sure to sign the guest register in the narthex. We hope that you will worship with us again soon.

ALL ARE INVITED to stay for a time of fellowship following worship. Donuts, coffee, and juice are available. A free-will offering is received to cover expenses.

NEW MEMBERS will be formally received during worship today through the rite of affirmation of Baptism. Some of these members are new and some have been at Immanuel for awhile, but we want to honor and formally welcome all of them today.

NEW BIBLES will be given to some of our young people today. We do this to assist parents in keeping their commitments to raise their children in the Christian faith. The children also receive a booklet to help them understand how to use their new Bible.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets at 10:25 a.m. on Sundays in the library social room. We are watching an interview podcast series from 1517 featuring Kelsi Klembara. She interviews scholars and authors about various topics. We will watch each episode over two weeks to allow time for discussion. The topics will change regularly, so you can join us for a few weeks or come regularly. This we will watch an interview with the Rev. Dr. Mark Mattes on assurance of salvation — how you can know that you are saved.

A NEW THURSDAY NIGHT STUDY starts this week. We will be studying the Lutheran “*solas*:” Faith Alone, Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, etc. and how they impact the way we understand the Bible and our relationship with God. The eight-week class is offered at 6:45 p.m. on Thursdays and preceded by a light supper.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Scott Aker. Scott is the brother of Alan Aker, Cindy Ladner and Deb Schmidt. Funeral services were on Saturday at Immanuel. May God comfort all who mourn with the hope of the Resurrection.

Worship Notes

The Prayer of the Day used for Reformation Sunday was composed by Henry IV, Duke of Saxony (1473-1541). He established the Lutheran church as the state church in his domains. The prayer comes from the Saxon Church Order (1539-1540).

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God. Martin Luther (1483-1546) wrote this hymn in the late 1520s to interpret and apply Psalm 46 to the Church of his time and its struggles. It is the best known of Luther's hymns and is sometimes called "The Battle Hymn of the Reformation." Luther wrote both the text and the tune.

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage. Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig (1783-1872), was Denmark's most influential educator, hymn writer, and theologian. He wrote this hymn as a final stanza to be sung after his translation of Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" into Danish. Grundtvig wrote 1,500 hymns and is considered the father of Danish hymnody and of the public school in Scandinavia.

Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word. Martin Luther wrote this hymn in 1541 when it appeared as if the Turkish army would overrun Germany. His prince had requested pastors to offer prayers for Germany's protection. Luther prepared a special service in which this hymn was sung. The first verse originally asked for protection from the Turks. Later Lutherans edited it to include all enemies of God's Word.

Salvation Unto Us Has Come. This hymn by Paul Speratus (1484-1551) is one of the first Lutheran hymns — expressing the key points of the Reformation. Speratus was one of the early Catholic priests to adopt Reformation teaching. It is thought that he wrote this hymn in 1523 while imprisoned and condemned to death for Protestant teaching. He was released following the intervention of rulers who supported the Reformation and then went to Wittenberg. He cooperated with Martin Luther to create the first Lutheran hymnal in 1524. The hymnal only had eight hymns: four by Luther, three by Speratus, and one by Justus Jonas. Our hymnal includes only five of the 14 verses of the original hymn. On Luther's advice, Speratus became the court preacher for Duke Albrecht of Prussia in 1524 and was involved in the Reformation there. He was the bishop of Pomesania 1529-1551.