



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
920 Fillmore Street – Whitewood, SD 57793 – 605-269-2104

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Immanuel means “God With Us”

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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☞ 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.

☐ Most merciful God,

☑ 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.

☐ 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

☑ Amen.



1. Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lived that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his and he is mine.

2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love!
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity.
Love that found me — wondrous thought —
Found me when I sought him not.

3. Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.

4. Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is All-in-All to me;
All my wants to him are known,
All my sorrows are his own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with him from earthly strife.

5. O my Savior, help afford
By your Spirit and your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

*GREETING

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

☛ **And also with you.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

*RESPONSIVE READING, Psalm 51:1-13

☞ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

☛ **Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.**

☞ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

☛ **Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.**

☞ And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

☛ **Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

☞ For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

☛ **Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

☞ Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

☛ **Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.**

☞ 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.**

☞ Give me the joy of your saving help again

☛ **And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

(BCP / LBW)

1. One there is, above all others,
Well deserves the name of friend;
His is love beyond a brother's,
Costly, free, and knows no end:
They who once his kindness prove
Find it everlasting love.

2. Which of all our friends, to save us,
Could or would have shed his blood?
But this Savior died to have us
Reconciled in him to God:
This was boundless love indeed;
Jesus is the friend we need.

3. When he lived on earth, they scorned him;
“Friend of sinners” was his name.
Though the angels have adored him,
Still he answers to that claim;
Still he calls them dearest friends
And to all their needs attends.

John Newton (1725-1807)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together . . .

C Lord Jesus,
you are the Good Shepherd,
without whom nothing is secure.
Rescue and preserve us
that we may not be lost forever but follow you,
rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life;
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG, "*Jesus Loves Me*"

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong:
They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gates to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
Let his little child come in.

Anna Bartlett Warner (1824-1915)



*The Lost Sheep by
Alfred Usher Soord
(1868–1915)*

FIRST READING, Ezekiel 34:11-24

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats: Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have fouled with your feet?

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken. (NRSV)

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:169-176

🔲 Let my cry come before you, O LORD;
give me understanding according to your word.

🔱 **Let my supplication come before you;
deliver me according to your promise.**

🔲 My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.

🔱 **My tongue will sing of your promise,
for all your commandments are right.**

🔲 Let your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.

🔱 **I long for your salvation, O LORD,
and your law is my delight.**

🔲 Let me live that I may praise you,
and let your ordinances help me.

🔱 **I have gone astray like a lost sheep;
seek out your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.**

(NRSV)

SECOND READING, 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

(NRSV)

🔲 The Word of the Lord.

🔱 **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

Hymn 499

Green Book

1. Come, thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore thee;
May I still thy goodness prove.

Robert Robinson (1735-1790)

***GOSPEL, Luke 15:1-10**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

(NRSV)

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Hymn 499

Green Book

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.

Robert Robinson (1735-1790)

SERMON

Pastor David J. Baer



*Rejoice with me because
I have found my
lost sheep*

1. Jesus sinners will receive;
May they all this saying ponder
Who in sin’s delusions live
And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners will receive.

2. We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet his words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim.
Here our ills have perfect healing;
We with humble hearts believe
Jesus sinners will receive.

3. When their sheep have lost their way,
Faithful shepherds go to seek them;
Jesus watches all who stray,
Faithfully to find and take them
In his arms that they may live —
Jesus sinners will receive.

4. Come, O sinners, one and all,
Come, accept his invitation;
Come, obey his gracious call,
Come and take his free salvation!
Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners will receive.

5. Jesus sinners will receive.
Even me he has forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave —
Jesus sinners will receive.

**☑ 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 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 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.**

*Eighth Century Creed based on
Rules of Faith and Baptism Creeds
dating back to the Second Century*

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

“Amazing Grace” is sung as the offerings are received.

***HYMN, “Amazing Grace”**

LBW Hymn 448

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

Green Book

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

John Newton (1725-1807)

THE PRAYERS

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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

HYMN, “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Tune: 439

1. There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There’s a kindness in his justice
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth’s sorrows
Are more felt than up in heav’n.
There is no place where earth’s failings
Have such kindly judgment giv’n.

2. There is welcome for the sinner,
And a promised grace made good;
There is mercy with the Savior;
There is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
Of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations
In that upper home of bliss.

3. For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of our mind;
And the heart of the eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the head.

4. ’Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
It is something more than all:
Greater good because of evil,
Larger mercy through the fall.
If our love were but more simple,
We should take him at his word;
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.

Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:

Alex and family	Don Dubbe
Lenae Ebel	Shelley Iverson
Felicity Kramer	Claire and Maxine Ripley
Connie Ross	Violet Rost
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)
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)
Aaron Richards (infant son of Grace (Smith) and Hunter Richards)
Ava Rouvennolt (6-year-old girl with cancer, friend of Judy Haiwick)
Dean Sandidge (son of Lance Sandidge, grandson of Leon and Shanna)
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)
Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis
The family and friends of Charlie Kirk
The family and friends of Pastor Evelyn Johnson
St. Dysmas Prison Congregations in South Dakota State Prisons

DR. DOUG WESSEL will be teaching a course at Immanuel again this fall. His course last year was well received and well attended. This year he will be teaching a course entitled, “The Exodus: Biblical and Historic Perspectives on Freedom with Implications for America” on four Thursdays in October (starting on Oct. 2). This four-session class will discuss the Israelite exodus from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the promised land in Canaan. The principles that can be learned from the biblical account of this experience are foundational for building a free and responsibility society. The implications of these principles for the future of freedom in America will be considered. The class will be offered at 6:45 p.m. and will be preceded by a light meal. Dr. Wessel is a semi-retired professor of psychology from Black Hills State University.

BOOKS AND CULTURE DISCUSSION GROUP is a new group that will meet 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. Although important ideas can have political associations, the goal of the group is to engage in mutually respectful and objective conversation and avoid politically partisan debate. Please read the selected book to prepare for the discussion with the group. The first book to be read for the September meeting is *Regime Change: Toward a Postliberal Future* by Patrick Deneen. It is available new or used in paperback, hardback, and e-book formats from local bookstores and online. A new hardback is currently \$15 at Amazon and Walmart. The group will meet monthly and select a book to be read for discussion at the next meeting. The first meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 30. For more information talk to Doug Wessel who is leading the group. You can see a sample copy of the book on the table in the library social room.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: We are looking for someone who would be willing to serve as financial secretary for Immanuel. The financial secretary oversees the counting of offerings and keeps a record of giving by members and issues annual statements of giving. This is a volunteer position appointed by the Church Council. If you are interested in serving as financial secretary or have questions about the position, please talk to a Church Council member, Pastor David, or Rita Shewmake, the current financial secretary.

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL:

Today	9:00 a.m. — Worship 10:00 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship 10:25 a.m. — Adult Sunday School
Monday	7:00 a.m. — Men's Group
Tuesday	9:30 a.m. — Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	4:30 p.m. — Kids Club 6:00 p.m. — Confirmation class
Thursday	5:30 p.m. — Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m. — Worship 10:00 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship 10:25 a.m. — Church Council

CHOIR REHEARSALS are at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays. If you are interested in singing in our choir, please come.

NEW MEMBERS will be formally received soon. If you are interested in joining Immanuel, please talk to Pastor David.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet after worship next Sunday. Copies of the agenda are available on the table in the library social room.

OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH is St. Dysmas of South Dakota. St. Dysmas ministry includes prison congregations at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, and at the Minimum Security Unit in Yankton. Dysmas was the name of the repentant thief Jesus forgave from the cross, according to Christian tradition. St. Dysmas ministry provides the light of Christ for those in prison, serving Jesus in those in prison as Jesus says in Matthew 25:31-46. You can learn more about the work of St. Dysmas at www.stdysmas.com. Mission of the Month highlights one of the ministries supported through your regular giving to Immanuel. Pastor Jeff Backer of St. Dysmas will be at Immanuel on Sunday, Sept. 28, to talk about this important ministry.

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.

WHITEWOOD KIDS CLUB — our Wednesday night children's ministry — meets from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. each week. Kids Club is designed for children Age 4 through Grade 5. For more information about Kids Club or to volunteer to help with Kids Club, talk to Brit Porterfield or Pastor David.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets at 10:25 a.m. on Sundays in the library social room. We are starting a new series this week. We will be 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. The first episode we will watch is an interview with the Rev. Dr. Ken Jones on the question, "What Does it Mean to Die a Good Death?" Dr. Jones is a native of Sturgis and a Lutheran scholar. Please join us for this opportunity to grow in faith.

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday. They are studying the book of Acts. All women are welcome to be a part of this monthly study. A short meeting will follow.

NEW PEW CUSHIONS? The Church Council is considering the possibility of recovering or replacing the pew cushions. Please talk to a Church Council member if you have any suggestions or questions about the pew cushions. The council will be meeting next Sunday.