



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”

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

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. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away all fear.

2. It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary, rest.

3. Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace.

4. By thee my prayers acceptance gain
Although with sin defiled.
The devil charges me in vain,
And I am owned a child.

5. O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

6. How weak the effort of my heart,
How cold my warmest thought;
But when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

7. Till then I would thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of thy name
Refresh my soul in death!

***RESPONSIVE READING**

Psalm 119:129-136

P Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.

C **The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.**

P With open mouth I pant,
because I long for your commandments.

C **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your name.**

P Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

C **Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.**

P Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.

C **My eyes shed streams of tears
because your law is not kept.**

(NRSV)

***HYMN, “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”**

LBW Hymn 368

Green Book

1. I love your kingdom, Lord,
The place of your abode;
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With his own precious blood.

2. I love your Church, O God!
Its walls before you stand,
Dear as the apple of your eye
And graven on your hand.

3. Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heav’nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows,
Its hymns of love and praise.

4. Sure as your truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv’n
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heav’n.

*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ The Lord be with you.

☛ And also with you.

☞ Let us pray together . . .

☛ O God, you reveal your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the fullness of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN, "*Children of the Heavenly Father*"

LBW Hymn 474

1. Children of the heav'nly Father

Green Book

Safely in his bosom gather;

Nestling bird or star in heaven

Such a refuge ne'er was given.

2. God his own doth tend and nourish,

In his holy courts they flourish.

From all evil things he spares them,

In his mighty arms he bears them.

3. Neither life nor death shall ever

From the Lord his children sever;

Unto them his grace he showeth,

And their sorrows all he knoweth.

4. Though he giveth or he taketh,

God his children ne'er forsaketh;

His the loving purpose solely

To preserve them pure and holy.

Carolina Sandell Berg (1832-1903)

— WORD —

FIRST READING, Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Moses said to the Israelites: “You are a people holy to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

It was not because you were more numerous than any other people that the LORD set his heart on you and chose you — for you were the fewest of all peoples. It was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

📖 The Word of the Lord.

(NRSV)

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 125

📖 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

🙏 **As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time on and forevermore.**

📖 For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,

🙏 **So that the righteous might not stretch out
their hands to do wrong.**

📖 Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts.

🙏 **But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers.**

Peace be upon Israel!

(NRSV)

SECOND READING, Romans 8:28-39

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For 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. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor 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.

(NRSV)

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

*HYMN, “*You Are the Way*”

LBW Hymn 464

1. You are the way; through you alone
Can we the Father find;
In you, O Christ, has God revealed
His heart, his will, his mind!

Green Book

2. You are the truth; your Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.

***GOSPEL, Matthew 13:44-52**

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

📖 *Jesus said to his disciples:* “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

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

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

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” (NRSV)

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN, “*You Are the Way*”

LBW Hymn 464

3. You are the life; the rending tomb

Green Book

Proclaims your conqu’ring arm;

And those who put their trust in you

Not death nor hell shall harm.

4. You are the way, the truth, the life;

Grant us that way to know,

That truth to keep, that life to win,

Whose joys eternal flow.

George Washington Doane (1799-1859)

SERMON

Pastor David James Baer

***HYMN, “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”**

LBW Hymn 458

Green Book

1. Jesus, priceless treasure,
Source of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me:
Ah, how long I’ve panted,
And my heart has fainted,
Thirsting, Lord, for thee!
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb;
I will suffer nought to hide thee,
Nought I ask beside thee.

2. In thine arm I rest me;
Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
Ev’ry heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Sin and hell in conflict fell
With their bitter storms assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

3. Hence, all fears and sadness,
For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate’er I here must bear,
Still in thee lies purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Johann Franck (1618-1677)



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**☞ 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 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 PRAYERS

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

LORD'S PRAYER

LBW Page 97

**☞ 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

☞ 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.

Numbers 6:24-26

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

☛ **Amen.**

***HYMN, “When Peace, Like a River”**

LBW Hymn 346

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Green Book

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed his own blood for my soul.

3. He lives — oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

4. And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul.

Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888)

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

*Please stay for the special meeting of the congregation
immediately after worship today.*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:

Alex and family	Agnes & Mark Baumann
Patricia Bridgeman	Lenae Ebel
Kirsten Flagstad	Gail Hemeyer
Peter Iverson	Shelley Iverson
Charles Jackson	Felicity Kramer
Allison Lester	Cleo Miller
Kristin & Lester Nies	Connie Ross
Kathy Rost	Rita Shewmake
Guyla Baer Sturgeon	Carletta and Steve Vasknetz
Anne Vossler	David Wanhannen
Joanne Baer	
Cherry Bieber (friend of Jon and Shelley Iverson)	
Jody Blevins (daughter of Claire and Maxine Ripley)	
Curtis Clark (friend of Patricia Bridgeman)	
Marla Ebel (sister of Rita Shewmake)	
Kris Eide (sister of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)	
Melanie Erickson (sister of Brenda Rath)	
Wayne Fiechtner (brother of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)	
Ronnie Fischer (brother of Judy Haiwick)	
Addie Graves (sister-in-law of Brandon and Alyssa Loll)	
Sherry Grismer (sister of Pastor David Baer)	
Ernie Griner (11-year-old friend of Meta Halverson)	
Martina Ham (mother of Diane Kunz)	
Doug Hewitt (brother-in-law of Diane Kunz)	
David Hoaas (brother-in-law of Lynelle Follum)	
Donovan Hunt (son of Carol Vercoe)	
Coleen Iverson-Routh (sister of Jon Iverson)	
Steve Kampfe (son of Garland and Kathy Kampfe)	
JoAnn Knutson (mother of Todd Knutson)	
Kathryn Koch (mother of Mike Koch)	
LeRoy Koch (father of Mike Koch)	
Roger Kurtenbach (friend of Jean Zambon)	
Callie Kvanvig (great niece of Ray Follum)	
Michael & Jan Meyer (brother & 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)	
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)	
Sandra Wittrock (sister of Darrell Pulscher)	
Kay Zuhr (sister of Chris Burleson)	
Zhuang People (unreached people group in China)	
For rain and relief from our drought	

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL:

Today 9:00 a.m. — Worship
 10:00 a.m. — Congregational Meeting
 10:15 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship

Next Sunday 9:00 a.m. — Worship
 10:15 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship
 10:25 a.m. — Adult Sunday School

ORGAN TASK FORCE UPDATE: The Organ Task Force and Church Council are recommending that Immanuel purchase the Hauptwerk organ from Arnold Organs. A proposal to approve this purchase will be considered at a special congregational meeting after worship today. Although this organ was the least expensive of the options, it has all of the features we are looking for. It includes high quality sample sets (digital recordings of each pipe) from significant pipe organs that can be played from our organ. It also has the ability to be repaired both locally and remotely if necessary. We are looking forward to receiving a loaner organ in August that can be used until our organ is built. This will allow the organ builder the opportunity to visit Immanuel and look at our worship space. We are grateful for all who took part in the organ informational session and completed the organ survey. This organ was also the one favored by the majority of those who completed the survey. Information on the organ proposal as well as copies of the survey results are available on the table in the library social room. If you have any questions about the organ proposal, talk to a member of the Organ Task Force. We thank the Organ Task Force members for their work and recommendation.

OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH is Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, a Christ-centered residential treatment and educational center for children and their families in North Dakota. The Ranch gives children a safe place to live, learn, and heal. They help the most troubled, complicated, and amazing kids by providing best-in-class psychiatric therapy and trauma-informed care. You can learn more at dakotaranch.org. Mission of the Month highlights one of the ministries supported through your regular giving to Immanuel.

WELCOME TO ALL who are worshipping 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. Baked goods, donuts, coffee, and juice are available. An offering is received to cover expenses.

OFFERINGS are being received in the offering plate on the table near the entrance to the sanctuary. The Church Council suggested trying this method of receiving offerings for the summer and seeking feedback from members. Please share your thoughts and suggestions with Pastor David or a Church Council member.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the congregation will be held after worship today to consider a proposal for a new church organ and to officially elect Heidi Aker as Immanuel's treasurer. Please plan to stay for the meeting.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES are being gathered for Lutheran World Relief school kits. Back-to-school sales are a great time to pick up school supplies for LWR school kits. Items that are needed for the kits are: spiral notebooks (70 sheet), pencils, pens, large erasers, crayons (box of 24), pencil sharpeners, rulers with centimeters, and blunt scissors. Please bring the items to the church by Sunday, Aug. 30.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to help with serving in worship during August. Both service groups work in August because of the busy summer schedules. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the library social room.

ONLINE WORSHIP: We stream our Sunday worship service on the internet for those who are unable to join us in person. You can join the service live at 9 a.m. on Sunday or watch the recording of the service at a later time. Links to the service are on our website, www.immanuellutheranwhitewoodsd.com. The bulletin is posted to the website prior to the live broadcast.

LWR School Kit Shopping List

School supplies are being gathered for Lutheran World Relief school kits. Back-to-school sales are a great time to pick up school supplies for LWR school kits. Please bring the items to the church by Sunday, August 30. We hope to make at least 100 school kits, so we need a lot of school supplies.

Items that are needed for the kits and typical back-to-school sale prices are:

Spiral notebooks (70 sheet)

Wide or College ruled - Approximately 8" x 10½"

Good price: 35¢

Blunt School Scissors

Good price: 75¢

Crayons (box of 24)

Good price: 50¢ for US-made Crayola (25¢ for generic)

Eraser (about 2½-inches)

Good price: 25¢ each (typical 2 for 50¢)

Ruler with centimeters

Good price: 25-50¢

Ballpoint pens (black or blue) (no gel ink)

Good price: 10¢ each (typical 10 for \$1)

Pencils (unsharpened)

Good price: 5¢ each (typical 24 for \$1)

Proposed Resolutions for Special Congregational Meeting after worship today

The Church Council has proposed the following resolutions for the Special Meeting of the Congregation after worship today:

Resolution 1 - Elect Treasurer

Be it resolved that Immanuel Lutheran Church elect Heidi Aker to serve a three-year term as treasurer. First term of office shall be from August 1, 2026, through January 31, 2029.

Resolution 2 - Purchase Organ

Be it resolved that Immanuel Lutheran Church purchase a new church organ from Arnold Organs at a cost not to exceed \$32,000. Funds for purchase will come from the designated Organ Fund and Memorial Fund.

NOTE:

The Organ Task Force and Church Council are recommending that the maximum expense amount for the new organ and loaner organ be set at \$32,000 to allow for any extra unknown expenses. The expected total amount for the organ is less than \$30,000. Current balance in the designated organ fund is \$29,926.75.