



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”

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

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.

☐ 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.**

✝
forgive
US OUR TRESPASSES
✝ AS WE
forgive
THOSE WHO TRESPASS
AGAINST US

***HYMN, “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”**

Hymn 549

Green Book

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

2. Praise him for his grace and favor
To our forebears in distress.
Praise him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

3. Tenderly he shields and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely as his mercy flows.

4. Angels help us to adore him,
Who behold him face to face.
Sun and moon bow down before him;
All who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Psalm 103

Henry F. Lyte (1793-1847)



*RESPONSIVE READING

P Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

Psalm 32:1

C Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:36

P Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger
and wrangling and slander, together with all malice,

C Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

P Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,

C Live in love, as Christ loved us
and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 4:31 - 5:2

P Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean?

C Here God encourages us to believe
that he is truly our Father
and we are his children.
We therefore are to pray to him
with complete confidence
Just as children speak to their loving father.

P Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?

C We ask in this prayer
that our Father in heaven
would not hold our sins against us
and because of them refuse to hear our prayer.
And we pray that he would
give us everything by grace,
for we sin every day
and deserve nothing but punishment.
So we on our part will heartily forgive
and gladly to do good to those who sin against us.

Martin Luther's Small Catechism (1529)

1. Where charity and love prevail,
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love,
By love we thus are bound.

2. With grateful joy and holy fear,
God’s charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul
Now love God in return.

3. Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, God’s holy Son;
As members of his body joined,
In him we are made one.

4. Let strife among us be unknown;
Let all contentions cease.
Be God’s the glory that we seek;
Be his our only peace.

5. For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior’s name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

6. We now forgive each other’s faults
As we our own confess,
That we may love each other well
In Christian gentleness.

*Latin Hymn (Ninth Century)
Omer Westendorf (1916-1997)*



**SHOW GOD’S
LOVE AND MERCY**

***GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☞ 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

☞ Let us pray together . . .

☛ **O God,**

**you declare your almighty power
chiefly in showing mercy and pity.**

**Grant us the fullness of your grace,
that, pursuing what you have promised,
we may share 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

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)

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FIRST READING, Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

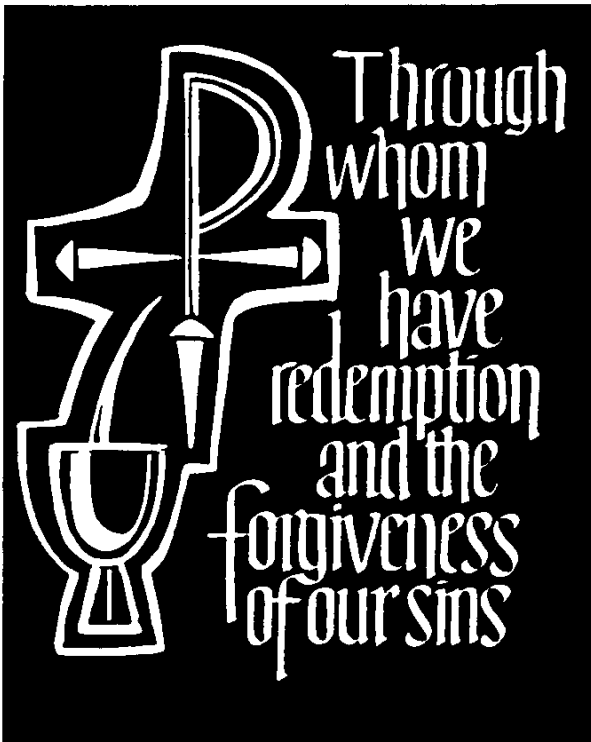
His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

(NIV)

🙏 Thanks be to God.



PSALM 103:1-14

- L** Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- C** **Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits —**
- L** Who forgives all your sins
- C** **And heals all your diseases,**
- L** Who redeems your life from the pit
- C** **And crowns you with love and compassion,**
- L** Who satisfies your desires with good things
- C** **So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**
- L** The LORD works righteousness
- C** **And justice for all the oppressed.**
- L** He made known his ways to Moses,
- C** **His deeds to the people of Israel:**
- L** The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
- C** **Slow to anger, abounding in love.**
- L** He will not always accuse,
- C** **Nor will he harbor his anger forever;**
- L** He does not treat us as our sins deserve
- C** **Or repay us according to our iniquities.**
- L** For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
- C** **So great is his love for those who fear him;**
- L** As far as the east is from the west,
- C** **So far has he removed our transgressions from us.**
- L** As a father has compassion on his children,
- C** **So the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.**
- L** For he knows how we are formed,
- C** **He remembers that we are dust.**

(NIV)

Praise the
LORD my soul

SECOND READING, Romans 14:1-12

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written:

“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord,
‘every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

(NIV)

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN, “*Come Down, O Love Divine*” (v. 1) LBW Hymn 508

1. Come down, O Love divine; *Green Book*
Seek thou this soul of mine
And visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near;
Within my heart appear
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

***GOSPEL, Matthew 18:21-35**

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

🕊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

📖 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” (NIV)

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🕊 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN, “Come Down, O Love Divine” (v. 2-4) LBW Hymn 508

2. Oh, let it freely burn,
Till worldly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Green Book

3. Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing —
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o’er its own short-comings weeps with loathing.

4. And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the pow’r of human telling;
No soul can guess his grace
Till it become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Bianco da Siena (1350-1434)
Richard F. Littledale (1833-1890)

SERMON

Pastor David James Baer

***HYMN, “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”**

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1. “Forgive our sins as we forgive,”
You taught us, Lord, to pray;
But you alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say.

2. How can your pardon reach and bless
The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let
Old bitterness depart?

3. In blazing light your cross reveals
The truth we dimly knew:
How trifling others' debts to us,
How great our debt to you!

4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
And bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled,
Our lives will spread your peace.

Rosamond E. Herklots (1905-1987)

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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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.**

*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

THE PRAYERS

LBW Page 97

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

BLESSING

LBW Page 97

℟ 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.
In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit.
☩ Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

Matthew 28:19



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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:

Alex and family	Agnes & Mark Baumann
Patricia Bridgeman	Lenae Ebel
Kirsten Flagstad	Gail Hemeyer
Dick Horak	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
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

LOVE INC 25TH ANNIVERSARY celebration is on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Love INC office at 414 E. Omaha in Rapid City. This is a free event and everyone is invited. Fliers are on the table in the library social room. Love INC is one of the ministries supported by your gifts to Immanuel. You can learn more at *loveinonline.com*.

LOVE INC FALL CLASSES in Sturgis will be offered at Hope Church in Sturgis on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. from Sept. 15 through Oct. 27. Life INC fall classes in Sturgis include ReAlign Financial and Common Sense Parenting for Toddlers. The classes are free and include a free meal and free childcare. Love INC offers even more Life INC classes in Rapid City on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Love INC is one of the ministries supported by your gifts to Immanuel. You can learn more at *loveinonline.com*.

CHECK OUT THE PHOTOS of some of the ministries that our congregation supports. They are on display in the hallway between the library social room and the fellowship hall. Thank you to Tony and Alona Westberg for installing new shelving to display our mission photos.

ORGAN UPDATE: We have ordered a new organ to be built by Arnold Organs. A loaner organ to be used until our console is built and the new organ speakers will be installed soon. The organ builder had to delay the installation due to a medical issue. We thank all those who have supported our organ fund.

OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the Northern Hills. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a worldwide organization of lay Roman Catholics, following Christ's call to serve the poor, the suffering, and the deprived. Society members establish relationships with our neighbors in need, not only providing material assistance such as rent, utilities, food, or clothing, but also offering friendship, understanding, and love. You can learn more at *ssvpusa.org* or *societyofstvincentdepaulblackhillssd.com*. We support the work of the society serving Sturgis, Whitewood and Newell. 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
Tuesday	9:30 a.m. — Church Women
Wednesday	6:30 p.m. — Choir
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m. — Worship
	10:15 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship
	10:25 a.m. — Church Council

A BIBLE STUDY will meet at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday starting on Sept. 22. We will be doing a Bible study this fall on the bound human will called “Not My Will But Yours.” A light supper will be served prior to each study at 5 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to join us for this opportunity to grow in faith. Talk to Pastor David for more information.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet at 10:25 a.m. next Sunday. Copies of the agenda are available on the table in the library social room.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to all who brought items for the kits and provided funds to purchase school supplies. We were able to complete 154 kits to help children around the world go to school.

A NEW HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM is being considered for Immanuel. It would allow people to listen to the service from their own Auracast Bluetooth compatible receiving device such as hearing aids, cochlear implants, headphones, or smart phones. Talk to Pastor David or a Church Council member if you have questions or would be interested in using such a device if we install it.

SERVICE TEAM #1 is looking for volunteers to help with serving during September. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the library social room.

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.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets at 10:25 a.m. on Sundays in the library social room. Today we are watching an episode of the White Horse Inn podcast about Europe moving from a post-Christian to a post-secular culture. Magnus Persson, a Swedish Lutheran pastor and former Pentecostal, joins Michael Horton and Bob Hiller to discuss how secularism is collapsing under the weight of its own emptiness, leaving a spiritual vacuum that Christianity can fill. This trend may offer a glimpse of America's future as well. Please join us for this opportunity to grow in faith.

CHOIR REHEARSALS are at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays starting this week. If you are interested in singing in our choir, please come. Talk to Toby Rath for more information.

OUR WOMEN'S GROUP will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday for their monthly Bible study and meeting at the church. All women are welcome. Talk to Alona Westberg or Shelley Iverson for more information.

A MEN'S GROUP will meet at 7 a.m. on Mondays at the church starting on Sept. 21. All men are welcome. Talk to Jon Iverson for more information.

WHITEWOOD KIDS CLUB — our Wednesday night children's ministry — meets from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. each week. Sept. 23 is the first day for Kids Club this fall. 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.