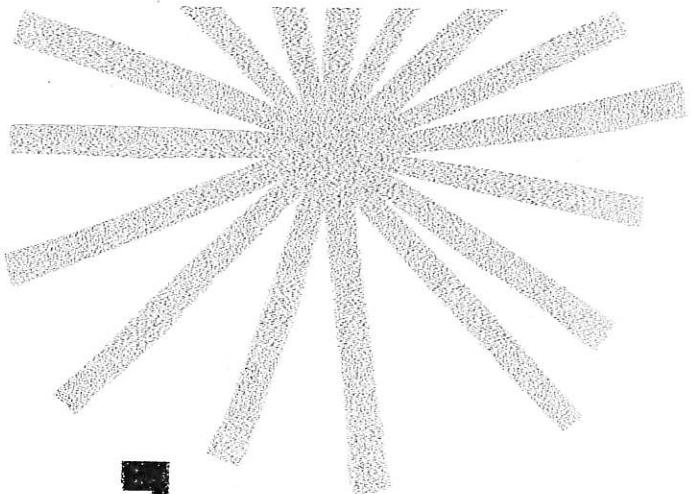


# Let's Make a Joyful Noise

**PSALM 98:4**



Sermon: Saturday "An Appeal for Agreement" 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Sunday "Living in the Middle" Matthew 4:12-15

Saturday, January 24 and Sunday, January 25, 2026

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

Okawville, Illinois 62271

*The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

## WELCOME TO IMMANUEL

We gather on the Lord's Day knowing that "Christ being raised from the dead will never die again" (Romans 6:9). Welcome, visitors who have joined us today. If we can help in any way, please call: Church 618-243-6216 or School 618-243-6142.

Pastor Eric Wood

Phone: 618-243-2846

Email: [myhomeontherange@juno.com](mailto:myhomeontherange@juno.com)

Principal Kelli Borrenpohl

Phone: 618-243-6142

Email: [principal@immanuelokawville.org](mailto:principal@immanuelokawville.org)

Immanuel Website: [Immanuelokawville.org](http://Immanuelokawville.org)

Saturday: Sunday: cancelled due to weather

Bible Class: cancelled due to weather Sunday School: cancelled due to weather

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Prayer concerns to be included in our public prayers may be shared with Pastor Wood and/or the church office. Prayers may be for particular individuals or concerning wider issues. Let us pray!*

- All members of Immanuel including:

At home - Adeline Blumhorst, Bill Durham, Norbert Hasheider, Kellee Helbig, Janet Lange, Martha Schneider, Linda Schuetz, Stanley Schwankhaus, Crystal Strasburg, Mike Strasburg

At Brightly in Mascoutah - Leonard Hemminghaus

At Bethesda Gardens in Loveland, Colorado - Carol Wennemann

At Barnes for rehab after surgery - Jackie Schwankhaus

At Washington County Hospital - Nancy Weeke

- Non-members: Lisa Arbogast-Eilers, an ILS graduate; Crystal Hasheider, wife of Matt Hasheider; Tim Schnitker, son-in-law of Sharon Storck.

- The family of Luke Kitterman, former ILS student, who passed away recently.

- That the Lord would continue to provide for his work in this place through generous giving, willing workers, and wise stewardship.

- The staff, faculty, and students of Immanuel Lutheran School

- The educational mission of Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School

- All who work or study in West Washington County Schools

- John Trinklein, second-year student at Concordia Seminary

- Reverend Rafael & Deaconess Jamielynn Flores, serving in Chile

- The mission work of the Southern Illinois District, including...

...all congregations, schools, and district leaders

...rural and small-town congregational support

...urban ministry (neighborhood renewal and Unity school) in East St. Louis

...campus ministry and international student outreach at SIU-C and SIU-E

...prison and jail ministry in many locations

...partnership with seminary in Dominican Republic

...disaster response ministry (LERT)

...Advocates for Life

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY (Transferred) Order of Service - Divine Service Setting One

### OAR 314 One in Christ and One in Spirit

1 One in Christ and one in Spir - it, One in Chris - tian  
2 Chris-tian sis - ters, Chris-tian broth - ers, Reach-ing out to  
3 One in Christ, now and for - ev - er, With one voice, we

u - ni - ty. From our Fa - ther, we in - her - it  
those in need, We pro - claim Good News to oth - ers  
glad - ly sing. Nei - ther life nor death can sev - er

Life with Him e - ter - nal - ly. Made a - new in Word and  
As we bold - ly share our creed. In our learn - ing and our  
Chris-tians from their lov - ing King. As we learn of His sal -

wa - ter, Freed from death and cleansed from sin. Per-fect  
grow - ing, We are strength-en ed in the Word. In our  
va - tion, May we tell of Je - sus' grace To each

son and ho - ly daugh-ter—Hearts made pure and whole with - in.  
com-ing and our go - ing, We live out what we have heard.  
fu - ture gen-er - a - tion At all times, in ev - 'ry place.

Text: Lisa M. Clark, b. 1982

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813

Text: © 2015 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OAR Hymn License no. 110001403

Tune: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

Stand

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Kneel/Stand*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 22:27–31; antiphon: v.22*

I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.  
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

For kingship belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.

All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.  
Posterity shall serve him;

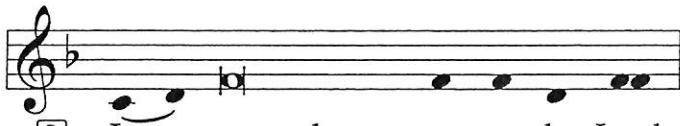
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;  
they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,  
that he has done it.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

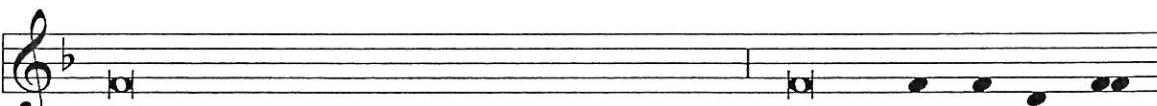
### Kyrie



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



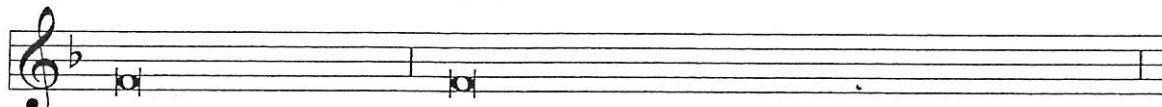
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



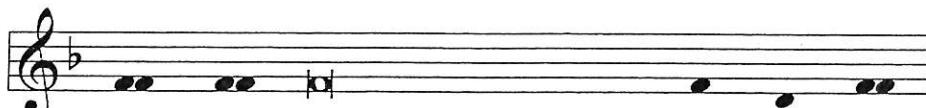
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

### This Is the Feast

*Refrain*



**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:1–4

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

"Amigos de Christ" & "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy" (sung by ILS students on Sunday)

## Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." <sup>13</sup>Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

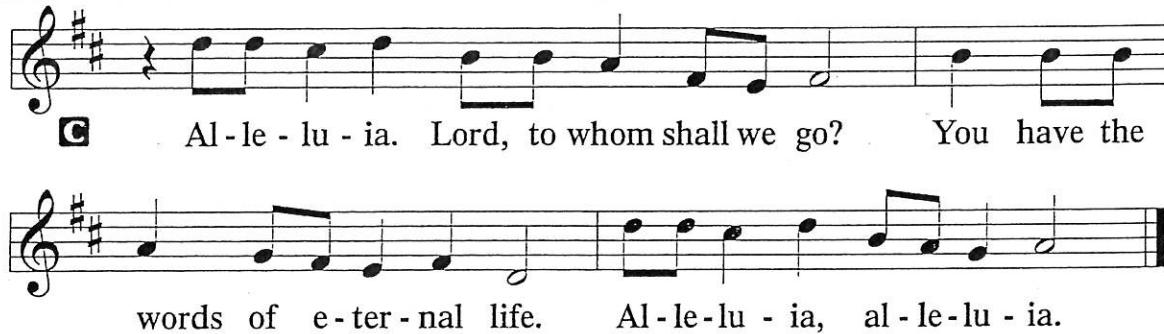
<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

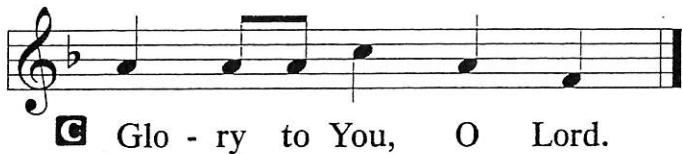


C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:12-25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>12</sup>When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup>And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup>the people dwelling in darkness

have seen a great light,

and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,

on them a light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

<sup>18</sup>While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

<sup>24</sup>So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and

paralytics, and he healed them. <sup>25</sup>And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

OAR 314 One in Christ and One in Spirit (Saturday)

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light (Sunday) (choir sings stanza 3)

Sermon (Saturday) "An Appeal for Agreement"  
(Sunday) "Living in the Middle"

1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-15

*Stand*

Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

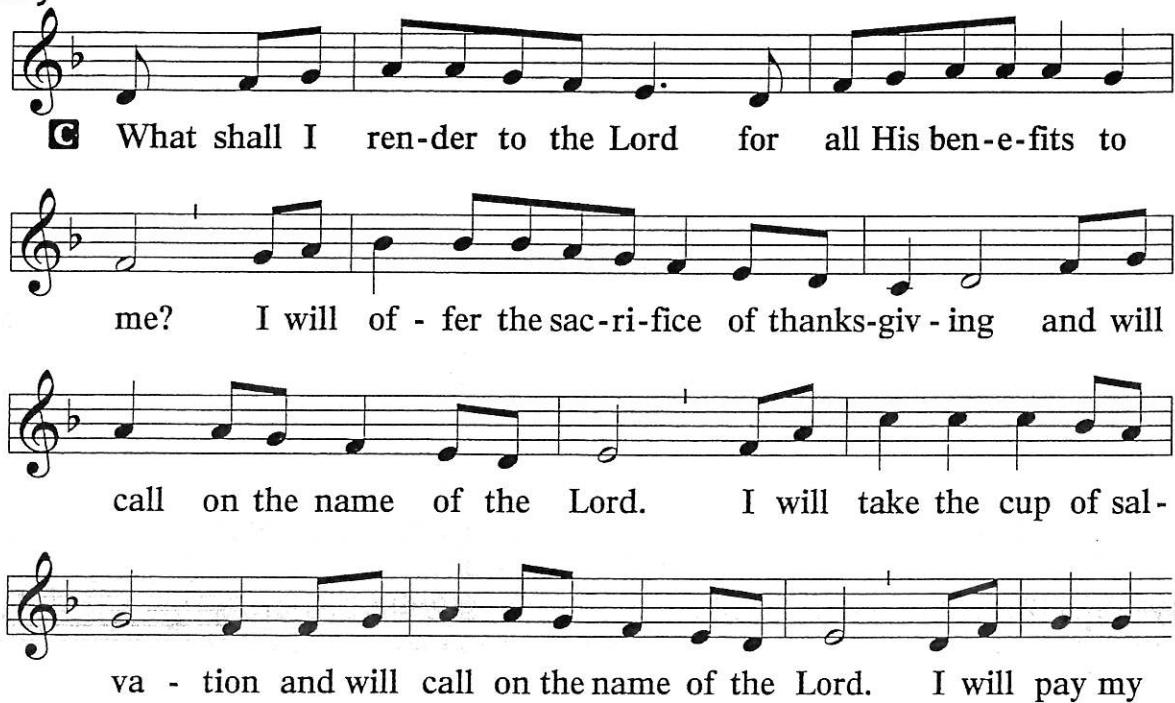
*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).*

*Sit*

**Offering**

*Stand*

**Offertory**



The musical notation consists of five staves of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated with the music, appearing below the staves. The lyrics are as follows:

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



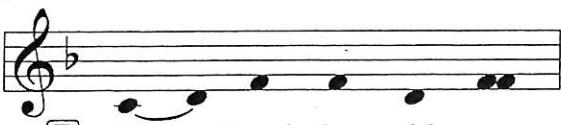
vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface



**P** The Lord be with you.



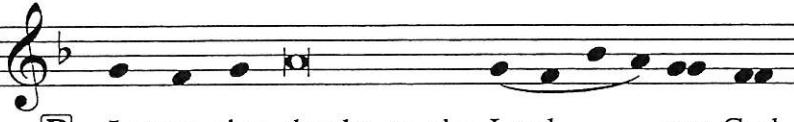
**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance

of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

C Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{\textt{T}}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{\text{T}}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

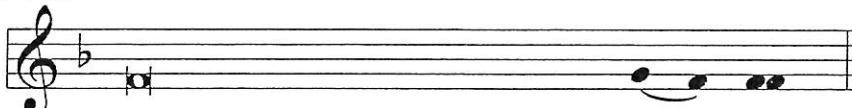
**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### 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.**

### Pax Domini



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

G Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

## Distribution

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

**Amen.**

## 812 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

## 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

## 861 Christ Be My Leader

*Stand*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{†}$  in peace.

**C** Amen.

### Thank the Lord



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is-es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

### Post-Communion Collect

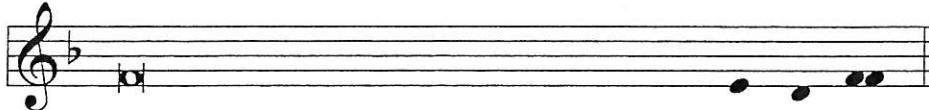
**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

### Benediction



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{†}$  give you peace.



## “Let Us Make a Joyful Noise” (Sunday)

*Theme hymn for the 2025-26 National Lutheran Schools Week  
For younger children*

# Let Us Make a Joyful Noise

J. E. B.

Based on Psalm 98:4

Jeffrey E. Burkart



1 Let us make a joy - ful noise! To our Lord, lift ev' - ry voice!  
2 God's right hand and ho - ly arm Keeps us ev - er from all harm,  
3 There - fore, let us sing and tell Of God's love that we know well.  
4 Tell of how Christ Je - sus came To this world to take our blame  
5 Then tell how Lord Je - sus rose And how He loves us and knows

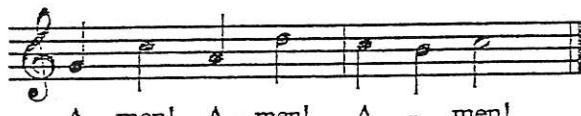


Sing a new song to the Fa - ther And to Je - sus Christ, our broth - er.  
For God sent His blest sal - va - tion To all peo - ple of each na - tion.  
Tell how God once sent Lord Je - sus To this sin - ful world to free us  
For the sins that we've com - mit - ted So, through Him, we'd be ac - quit - ted  
All our sins and ev' - ry dan - ger To them, Je - sus is no strang - er.



Sing to God the Spir - it who With true faith did us im - bue!\*  
Yet, some peo - ple do not know That God's love can to them flow.  
From the craft - y De - vil's might Through His Son, who made us right  
By His death up - on a cross On which Je - sus' life was lost  
He came to for - give our sin So we could new life be - gin.

Δ 6 For this Good News, we rejoice;  
Hills and rivers raise your voice!  
Sing a new song to the Father  
And to Jesus Christ, our brother.  
Sing to God the Spirit who  
With true faith did us imbue.  
Amen! Amen! Amen!



A - men! A - men! A - men!

\* "Imbue" means to fill, instill, or inspire.

## Acknowledgments

## Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Eric Wood  
Sophia Wood  
Sharon Krueger  
Markus Lautenschlaeger  
Hudson Schneider  
Jackie Bening  
Emily Wood

Birthdays: 2<sup>nd</sup> Deb Guest, 4<sup>th</sup> Lilly Dunn, Rebecca Heckert, Janet Weeke, 5<sup>th</sup> Martha Schneider, 6<sup>th</sup> Carol Brockmann

## January Ushers – Saturday –

## Sunday – Jim Unverfehrt and Caleb Unverfehrt

Saturday service at 5:30 p.m.

Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. Bible class topic is "Ask, Seek, Knock".

**Sunday Service** at 10:00 a.m.

Public Catechesis this Monday at 6:45 a.m.

Community Bible Study at Bunkers this Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Chapel this Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. with ILS Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, & 2<sup>nd</sup> grades

**Annual Voter's Meeting** scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> will happen after Sunday service at 11:30 a.m. on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Visitation from Our District President:** On Sunday, February 15, the President of the Southern Illinois district of the LCMS, Rev. Heath R. Curtis, will be preaching at our worship service. There will be a meal after the service during which President Curtis will also be making a presentation about cultural and demographic change, the four problems this raises for every Christian church in America, and how to faithfully respond in our congregation. Everyone in the church is encouraged to come and hear this engaging and informative presentation! Please see insert for more details about the meal.

## **Men's Club/Alumni Association Chili & Chicken Soup Supper**

The chili and soup supper will be held in Immanuel Lutheran School gym on Sunday, February 22, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. It is all you can eat chili, chicken soup, a dessert, and drink. Adults - \$13.00, Children (10 and under) \$6.00, ages 5 and under are free. Carry outs are available (bring your own containers). Hope to see you there!

**Save the Date: Alumni & Friends Celebration is April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Extra copies of the February newsletter** are available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to take one for yourself or someone else.

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>** after worship service Cheri Kurtz and Taiya Bergmann will be recognized for their 25 years of service at Immanuel Wee Care.

**Wee Care, Pre School, and Kindergarten** will be attending Disney on Ice Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **GENERAL NOTES**

**Life Thoughts in the Church Year:** Abortion and assisted suicide are often followed by crushing amounts of guilt and shame. While the Church rightly teaches that these are sins against God and neighbor, may we never forget that Christ has sent us to preach the Gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation (1 Corinthians 1:17-18). In Christ, “there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish,” (Isaiah 9:1), for He has come in the fulfillment of His promises, bringing the Kingdom of God near to us (Matthew 4:14-17), that all who repent and believe in Him can take shelter in the Lord (Psalm 27:5).

**Life Quotes:** “The One who gives us our new beginning in Baptism is the same God who fashioned us and gave us our first beginning in the womb. It is God who brings forth life. It is God who created us, who ‘knits us together,’ so that we are ‘intricately and wonderfully made.’ Some say that the Bible never mentions abortion, and thus we should not speak against it. How far from the truth! The decisive moral truth of what Scripture teaches is this: Human beings are such from fertilization. And—it is a sin to shed innocent blood.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life*  
• [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**Stewardship:** Matthew 4:20 – “Immediately they left their nets and followed him.” Discipleship cost Peter and Andrew everything they had. They left their trade, their hometown, their families, and they followed Jesus. God has called us to the same discipleship, the same devotion, though the exact details of how that is lived out will vary. The important thing is this: we know that all we have is the Lord’s, to be used for His purpose. We are His disciples and are ready to follow where He leads.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**St. Peter’s UCC** in Okawville is holding their annual Wurst Markt Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, and dessert. Serving will be drive - thru only rain or shine 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. All meals are \$15.00 each.

**Everyone is invited to a hymn festival commemorating the liturgical Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul on February 8.** Four SID churches named ‘St. Paul’; will join together for this hymn festival that afternoon: St. Paul’s Columbia, St. Paul Hamel, St. Paul’s Troy, and St. Paul Wood River. The Hymn Festival will be Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM at St. Paul’s Troy, 112 N. Border St., Troy, IL. Hymn commentaries will be provided by pastors of the participating churches. The organist will be Joseph Meador from St. Paul, Wood River and MELHS. The choir conductor will be Karen Shimkus from St. Paul’s, Troy and St. Paul’s, Columbia. The accompanist will be Kantor Janet Muth from St. Paul, Hamel. Singers and instrumentalists from all 4 churches and MELHS will participate. In the spirit of St. Paul, a mission offering will be collected for the Seminario Concordia El Reformador in the Dominican Republic (a mission partner of the SID).

**Hoffman Trinity Lutheran School** will be hosting the annual PTL Valentine Pork Chop Dinner and Auction on February 8th, so invite your Sweetheart out for lunch! Meals will be served from 10:45 am -1:00 pm to get your Smoked Pork Chop, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Cinnamon Applesauce, and a delicious dessert all for only \$14.00. Tickets for children 2-10 will be \$6.00. We will also have carry-out dinners available for \$14.00 each. The annual live auction will begin at 1 p.m. in the gym. Bidding for the silent auction will be during the mealtimes, however some may close early, so bid often! All proceeds will go toward the PTL and will be used for the continued education of the students at the school, in the areas of technology, physical education, classroom materials, and school wide projects

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The offerings for Saturday, January 17, Sunday, January 18, and Saturday January 25th were as follows: Current \$415.00, Home Use \$3,020.00, and Loose \$90.00.

Expenses for the week: \$39,636.84

Loan Balance: \$45,000.00