

Sermon: "Is God's Love For Us 'Iffy'?" John 14:15-21  
Saturday, May 9 & Sunday, May 10, 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)

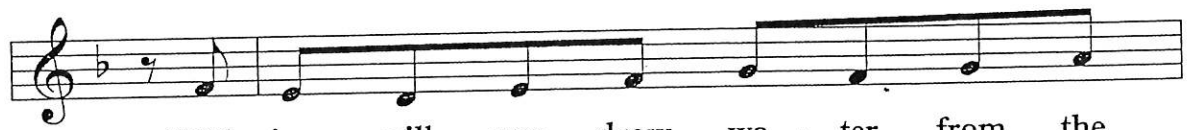
Immanuel Website: [Immanuelokawville.org](http://Immanuelokawville.org)  
Saturday: 18 Communed: 16 Sunday: 60 Communed: 51  
Bible Class: 13 Sunday School: 7

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

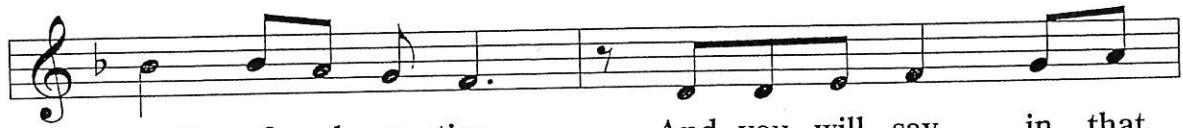
*Prayer concerns to be included in our public prayers may be shared with Pastor Wood and/or the church office. Prayers may be for particular individuals or concerning wider issues. Let us pray!*

- All members of Immanuel including:
  - At home –Norbert Hasheider, Kellee Helbig, Martha Schneider, Linda Schuetz, Jackie Schwankhaus, Stanley Schwankhaus, Crystal Strasburg, Mike Strasburg, Nancy Weeke
  - At Brightly in Mascoutah – Leonard Hemminghaus
  - At Bethesda Gardens in Loveland, Colorado – Carol Wennemann
- Non-members: Lisa Arbogast-Eilers, an ILS graduate; Betty Markowski, sister of Charlotte Durham; Crystal Hasheider, wife of Matt Hasheider; Tim Schnitker, son-in-law of Sharon Storck.
- 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





With joy will you draw wa - ter from the



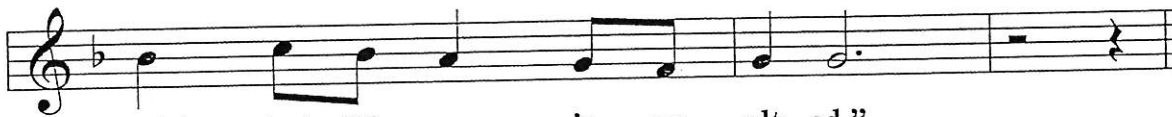
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,



make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

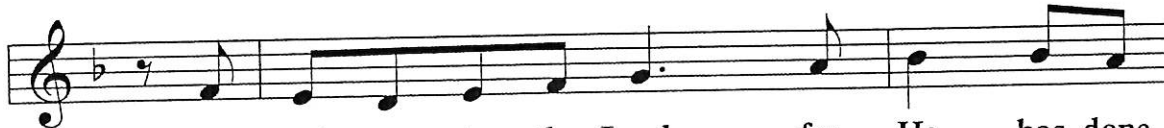


*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the



earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -



hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the



Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.



*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son



and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will



be for - ev - er. A - men.



*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

## Readings From Holy Scripture

### Psalm 66:8-20

- <sup>8</sup>Bless our God, O | peoples;\*  
let the sound of his | praise be heard,  
<sup>9</sup>who has kept our soul among the | living\*  
and has not let our | feet slip.  
<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have | tested us;\*  
you have tried us as sil- | ver is tried.  
<sup>11</sup>You brought us in- | to the net;\*  
you laid a crushing burden | on our backs;  
<sup>12</sup>you let men ride o- | ver our heads;\*  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a place of a- | bundance.  
<sup>13</sup>I will come into your house with burnt | offerings;\*  
I will perform my | vows to you,  
<sup>14</sup>that which my lips | uttered\*  
and my mouth promised when I was in | trouble.  
<sup>15</sup>I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,  
with the smoke of the sacri- | fice of rams;\*  
I will make an offering of | bulls and goats.  
<sup>16</sup>Come and hear, all you who | fear God,\*  
and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.  
<sup>17</sup>I cried to him | with my mouth,\*  
and high praise was | on my tongue.  
<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished iniquity | in my heart,\*  
the Lord would not have | listened.  
<sup>19</sup>But truly God has | listened;\*  
he has attended to the voice | of my prayer.  
<sup>20</sup>Blessèd | be God,\*  
because he has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast | love from me!

*Sit*

### First Reading

**Acts 17:16-31**

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babblers wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher

of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup>For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

## 1 Peter 3:13–22

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he

went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Gospel**

**John 14:15–21**

<sup>15</sup>[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

**Responsory**

**L** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**G** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

**L** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**G** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

**L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**G** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Catechism Review (Sacrament of the Altar (3-5)

LSB 328-329

**Apostles' Creed**

**G** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

Children's Message (Sunday)

Sermon "Is God's Love For Us 'Iffy'?"

John 14:15-21

490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

Offering

Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free (arr. Macheimer) (sung by choir on Sunday)

*Stand*

Prayer

**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**G** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**G** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the  
proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**G** Lord, have mercy.

- L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

### Lord's Prayer

- G** **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.**

### Collect of the Day

- L** O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** **Amen.**

## Evening Prayer (Saturday)

**E** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For

into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## Morning Prayer (Sunday)

**E** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Amen.

## New Testament Canticle



**E** Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.



Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.



Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He

lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to

sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

*Refrain*

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Blessing

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
  
- L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C** Amen.

## 556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice stanzas (7-10) (Sunday)

### Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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Pastor:	Eric Wood
Pianist: (Saturday)	Eric Wood
Organist: (Sunday)	Sharon Krueger
Trumpeter: (Sunday)	Julia Helbig
Acolytes: (Saturday)	Collins Schumacher
(Sunday)	Devin Hundelt
Readers: (Saturday)	Jackie Bening
(Sunday)	Laney Hundelt

**Birthdays**, 13<sup>th</sup> Kelly Heckert, 14<sup>th</sup> James Hasheider

**May Ushers** – Saturday – Jason Obermeier  
 Sunday – Ken and Tyler Storck

**Saturday service** at 5:30 p.m.

**Bible Class** at 9:00 a.m. Topic is “Christ Is Risen Indeed”.

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

**Chapel** this Friday at 8:15 a.m. with Pastor Wood includes Kindergarten graduation.

**Adult Instruction Opportunity:** If you or someone you know would be interested in learning more about what Lutherans believe, please talk to Pastor Wood. He hopes to start an adult instruction class soon.

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

**Voters’ Meeting:** Immanuel held their quarterly voter’s meeting on Sunday, April 26. 28 were in attendance. The next scheduled quarterly voter’s meeting will be held on Sunday, July 26, 2026, following the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

**The Alumni & Friends Association Board** has decided to host the yard sale again in June. We had planned to stop, however, there were so many requests to continue, we are going forward with the project again this year. This will be decided on a year-to-year basis and will depend on the level of volunteer help that is received. Donations will be accepted after school is dismissed for the year. This project benefits in so many ways. Please consider sharing some of your time for set up or sale hours. Sale dates that we are considering will be June 4, 5, 6 and 11, 12 & 13. Final dates and hours of the sale will be decided in May.

## SCHOOL NEWS

Now Enrolling Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students for 2026/2027 School Year  
at Immanuel Lutheran School, Okawville.

If you know of anyone wanting to enroll their child in school to provide them with a Christian education, please share this information with them. Please call the school office at 618-6142 to set up an appointment to enroll.

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May 12<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation at 7:00 p.m. and 8<sup>th</sup> graders' last day of school

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Last day of morning and afternoon preschool

May 14<sup>th</sup> – 4 yr old preschool graduation at 8:30 a.m. and K-4<sup>th</sup> park day is planned

May 15<sup>th</sup> – Kindergarten graduation with closing chapel at 8:15 a.m. and awards program at 11:45 a.m. -12:20 p.m. with student dismissal at 12:30 p.m. – last day of school

Immanuel Wee Care is looking for a **daycare worker & custodian** to help a few days or more per week. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Cheri Kurtz at 618-243-6161.

You can help the school financially by doing the following: **Shop With Raiseright** – For complete information visit [www.shopwithraiseright.com](http://www.shopwithraiseright.com) Checks payable to ILS PTL. Go to [smile.amazon.com/ch37-0916756](http://smile.amazon.com/ch37-0916756) and Amazon donates to Immanuel Lutheran Church and School Okawville. Participate in the **Kroger Community Rewards** program. Join **Casey's Rewards** today and donate to our school. This is for instore, online or at the pump purchases.

## GENERAL NOTES

**Life Thoughts in the Church Year:** Like Athens at the time of the Apostle Paul's preaching (Acts 17:16), this world is full of idols. Today's idols may take on a different shape, but they are just as deadly. These idols craftily disguise themselves with practical-sounding words and phrases, such as "reproductive health care" and "death with dignity." The One True God, the Lord of Life, offers a better way. Jesus says, "Because I live, you will also live" (John 14:19). Though in this life we may be tested and tried like silver, and what may appear to be a crushing burden is laid on our backs, the Lord God has promised to bring us into a place of abundance (Psalm 66:10-12). We have been given the Helper, the Spirit of Truth, who dwells in us (John 14:16-17), that we may serve God in our various vocations as Gospel-motivated voices for Life, always being ready to make a defense for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15).

**Life Quotes:** "If you're a single parent, don't count yourself out ... If you're widowed or divorced, don't count yourself out. If you've never married, don't count yourself out. We sinners are all in this together. We want to see the relevance of faith for our daily lives. We hear the religious talk and we humbly ask, 'How does this apply to me?' The answer is that the glory of Christ's resurrection is for us all. It continues in the message of forgiveness and hope we experience each time we gather together." *Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, Speaker Emeritus of "The Lutheran Hour" - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Stewardship:** John 14:15 - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Jesus is clear: our obedience to His Word comes from our love for Him. But where does that love come from? Jesus tells us that as well: "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven — for she loved much" (Luke 7:47). Christ shows us His love and gives us the forgiveness of our sins, which causes love to well up in us and thereby keep the commandments of Jesus. For after all, the summary of the Law is "love."

**Lutheran programs on Radio & TV on Sundays** - 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 850 AM Radio KFUE Lutheran Worship from a Lutheran church; 9:00 a.m. 104.7 FM Rev. Mueller, New Minden Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. TV Station "TCT" "Lutheran Worship." These are not a replacement for being in church and Bible class. These are for times when we are unable to attend in person.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The offerings for Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3 were not counted.

**Expenses for the week:** \$8,407.22

**Thrivent Choice:** If you have not contacted Thrivent Choice recently, please call 800-847-4836 to see if Thrivent has money set aside for you to designate to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Immanuel Lutheran School or another designation of your choice. Money is available through the Thrivent Choice Program. This is not a donation coming out of your investment.

**Reminder:** Bunker's Restaurant (Golf Course) will give 10% to Immanuel Lutheran Church if you show your bulletin from church when eating on Sundays. Thank you for your support!! RBM Golf Course.