



Sermon: "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

Principal Kelli Borrenpohl
Phone: 618-243-6142

Email: principal@immanuelokawville.org

Immanuel Website: Immanuelokawville.org
Saturday: 19 Communed: 16 Sunday: 67 Communed: 54
Bible Class: 10 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 – Adeline Blumhorst, Bill Durham, Roy Frederking, Norbert Hasheider, Kellee Helbig, Janet Lange, Martha Schneider, Linda Schuetz, Jackie Schwankhaus, 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.
- 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

Order of Service - Matins

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



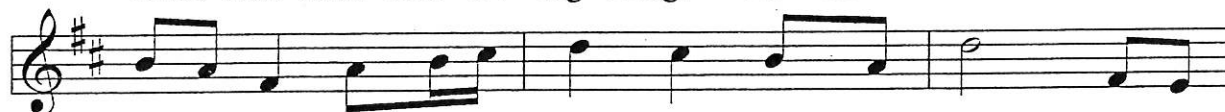
1 One in Christ and one in Spir - it, One in Chris - tian
 2 Chris - tian sis - ters, Chris - tian broth - ers, Reach - ing out to
 3 One in Christ, now and for - ev - er, With one voice, we



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 - ened 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.

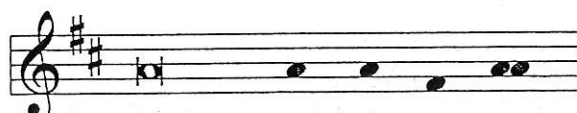
Text: Lisa M. Clark, b. 1982

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

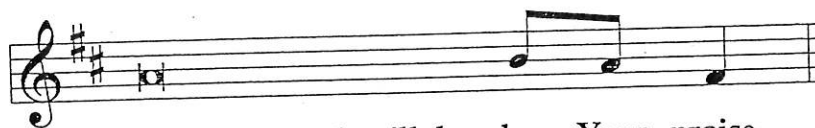
Text: © 2015 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OAR Hymn License no. 110001403

Tune: Public domain

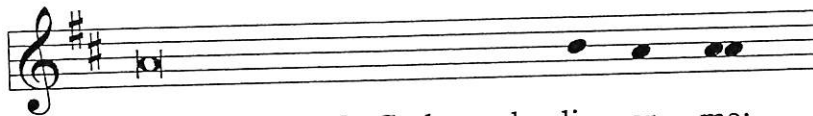
Stand



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



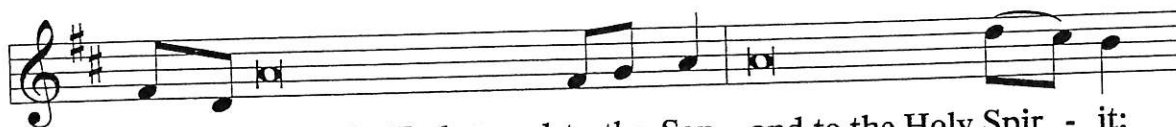
C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;

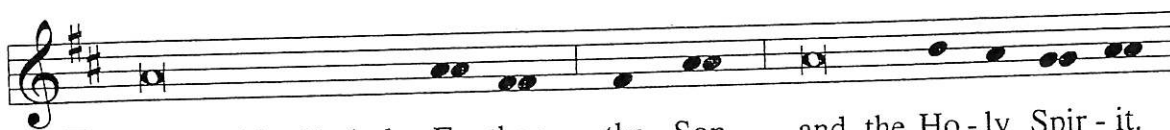


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

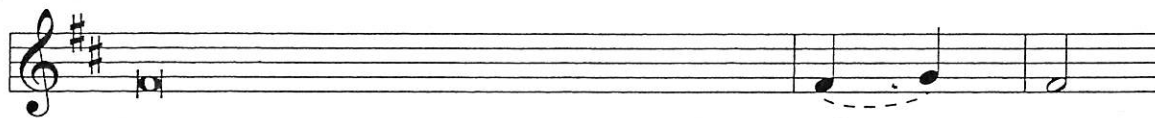


L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



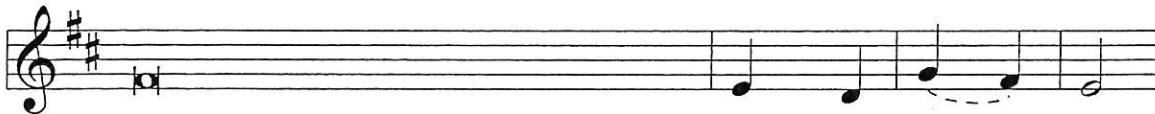
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite



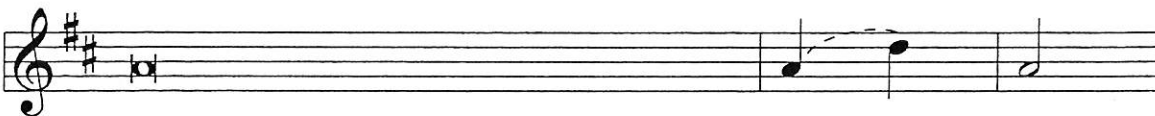
- C** 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

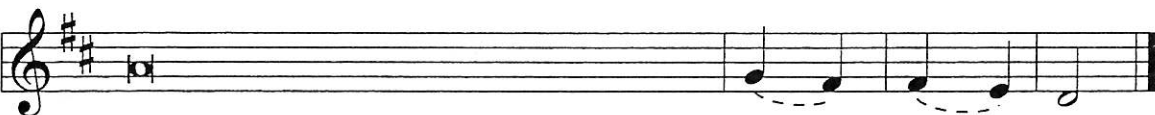


- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.

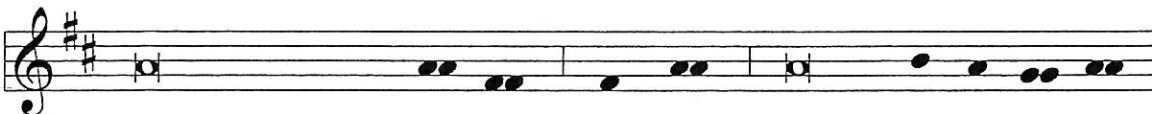
5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



- 1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



- L** Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



- C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 27:1-9 (in unison)

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
 whom | shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I | be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me
to eat | up my flesh,*
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stum- | ble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart | shall not fear;*
though war arise against me,
yet I will be | confident.

⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek | after: *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his | temple.

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of | trouble; *
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

⁶And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with | shouts of joy; *
I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I | cry aloud; *
be gracious to me and | answer me!

⁸You have said, | "Seek my face." *
My heart says to you,

"Your face, LORD, | do I seek."

⁹Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in | anger, *
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my sal- | vation!

Readings

Old Testament

Isaiah 9:1–4

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹² 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." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-25

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

¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the 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.”

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

¹⁸While 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. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And 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. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And 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. ²⁴So 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. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Responsory “O Lord, I Love the Habitation of Your House” (choir)

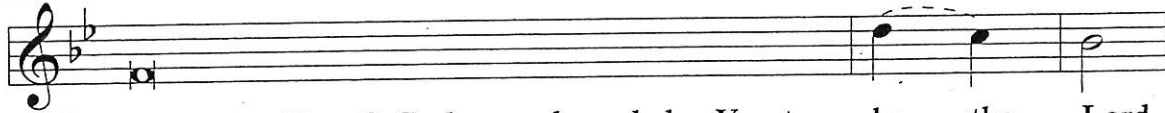
839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light (choir sings stanza 3)

Sermon “Living in the Middle” Matthew 4:12-25

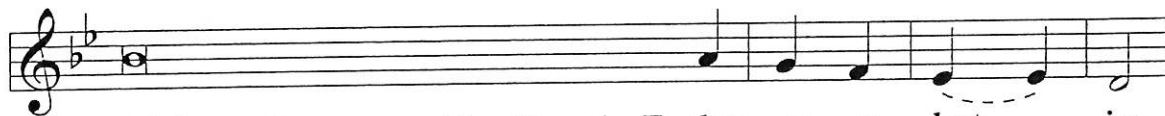
Canticle

Stand

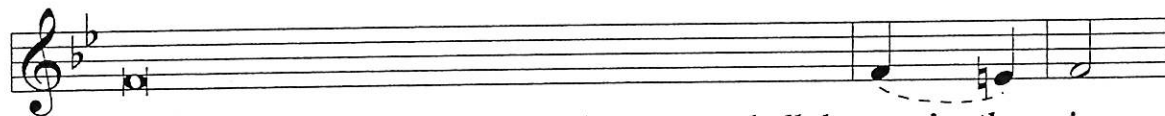
Te Deum



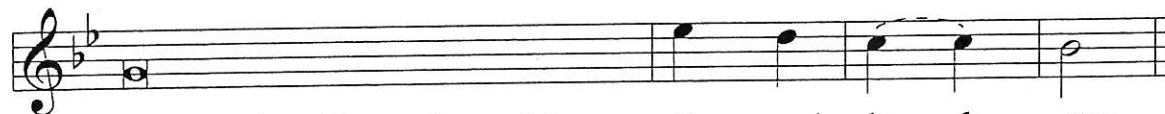
- 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



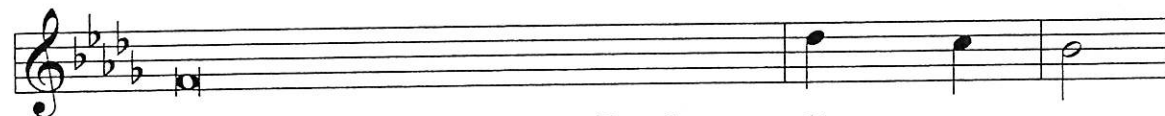
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



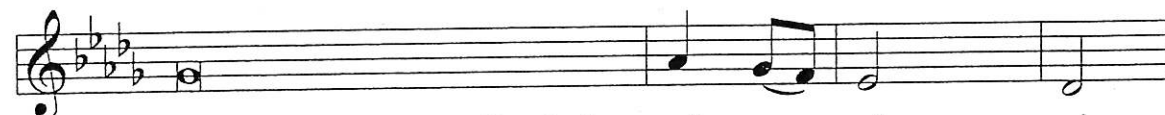
- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise — You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, O — Christ;



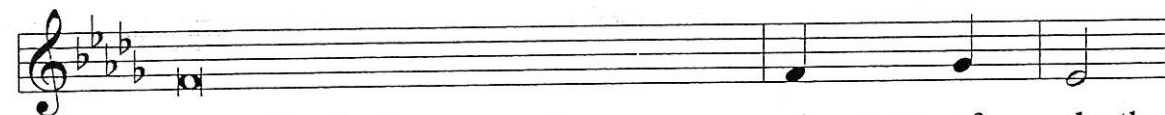
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise — You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com - fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



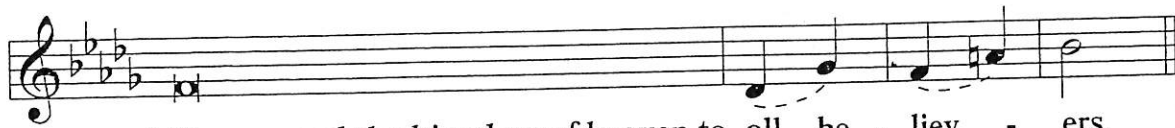
- 5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



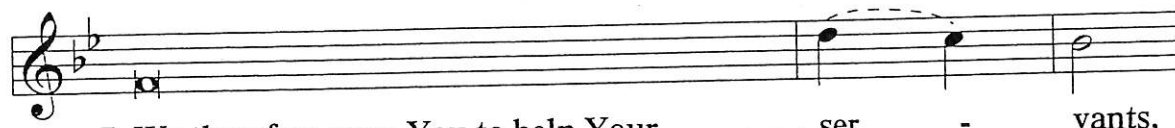
- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.




- 5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



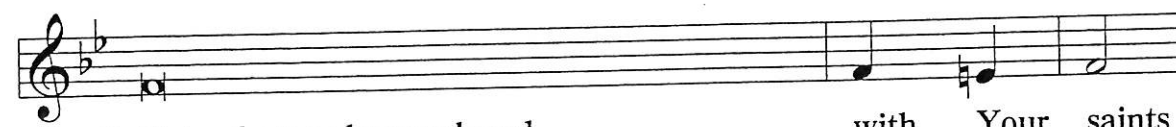
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



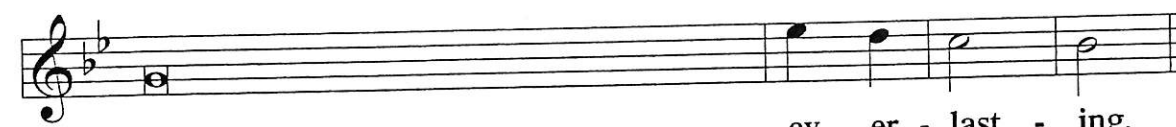
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser vants,
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her i - tage.
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
8 Govern them and lift them up for - ev - er.
9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

Sit

Offering

“Amigos de Christo” & “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy” (sung by ILS students on Sunday)

Children’s Message (Sunday)

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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.

Collects



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

L 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 Amen.

Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Collect for Peace (Saturday)

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Collect for Grace (Sunday)

- L** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Stand

Benedicamus



- L** Let us bless the Lord.

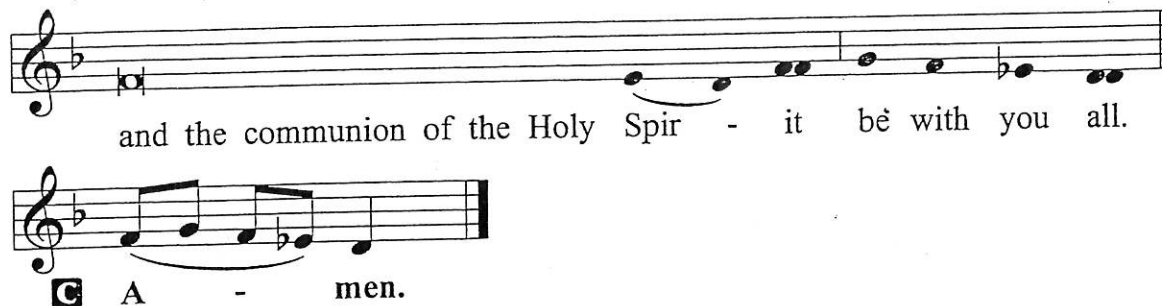


- G** Thanks be to God.

Benediction



- P** The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



"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.

△ 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

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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Pastor:	Eric Wood
Pianist: (Saturday)	Sophia Wood
Organist: (Sunday)	Sharon Krueger
Acolytes: (Saturday)	Collins Schumacher
(Sunday)	Sadie Bergmann
Readers: (Saturday)	Jackie Bening
(Sunday)	Emily Wood

Birthdays: 25th Rex Obermeier, 26th Hank Borrenpohl, 27th Amanda Millenbine, 28th Sadie Bergmann, 29th Kristen Hundelt, 30th Michael Storck, 31st Major Rossel

January Ushers – Saturday – Jason Obermeier

Sunday – Brent Schneider and Cameron Obermeier

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, 1st, & 2nd grades

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!

Save the Date: Alumni & Friends Celebration is April 12th.

February newsletter information is due in the church office by Tuesday, January 27th.

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

SCHOOL NEWS

January 25th – 31st is National Lutheran Schools Week, which will be celebrated with activities throughout the week.

Immanuel Wee Care is looking for a daycare worker 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 Checks payable to ILS PTL. Go to 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: 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*

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

Lay Leader Training: Send your lay leaders to gain skills and expertise at our Lay Leader Training! These workshops will cover areas that assist youth leaders, school boards, Sunday school teachers/superintendents, trustees, treasurers, evangelism committee members, and congregational presidents in carrying out their assigned duties. The day begins with Matins at 9am and wraps up at 2pm. Lunch is provided as part of registration. Find more information and registration at sidlcms.org/events Save the date today: Saturday, February 7th, 2026 (Trinity Lutheran Church 201 S. Pleasant Ave Centralia, IL 62801).

Everyone is invited to a hymn festival commemorating the liturgical Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul on January 25. 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 Jan. 25, 2026 at 3:00 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).

Bethlehem Lutheran to Hold Its Winter Workshop on Necessary Masculinity: This workshop has been postponed to a future date.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The offerings for Saturday, January 17 and Sunday, January 18 were not counted.

Expenses for the week: \$8,306.24

Loan Balance: \$45,000.00