



Sermon: "Holding Fast to the Word of Life" Philippians 2:1-18
Sunday, September 27, 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: 10 Communed: 8 Sunday: 47 Communed: 41
Bible Class: 5 Sunday School: not held

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 -Julie Borrenpohl, Charlotte Durham, Norbert Hasheider, Paul Lange, Deb Mashhoff, Martha Schneider, Linda Schuetz, Mike Strasburg
 - At Brightly in Mascoutah - Leonard Hemminghaus
 - At Bethesda Gardens in Loveland, Colorado - Carol Wennemann
 - Non-members: 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, vicar in Long Beach, CA
- 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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service - Matins

549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
 2 Crown Him, ye mar-tyrs of our God, Who from His al - tar call;
 3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
 4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
 The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
 The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.

5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
 The wormwood and the gall,
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet
 And crown Him Lord of all.

6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
 On this terrestrial ball
 To Him all majesty ascribe
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 To Him all majesty ascribe
 And crown Him Lord of all.

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
 We at His feet may fall!
 We'll join the everlasting song

And crown Him Lord of all.
 We'll join the everlasting song
 And crown Him Lord of all.

Text (sts. 1-5): Edward Perronet, 1726-92, alt.; (sts. 6-7): A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.
 Tune: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844
 Text and tune: Public domain

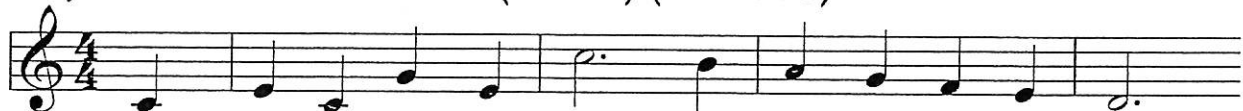
Stand

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C** 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.
 Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.

Psalmody

- L** Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C** O come, let us worship Him.

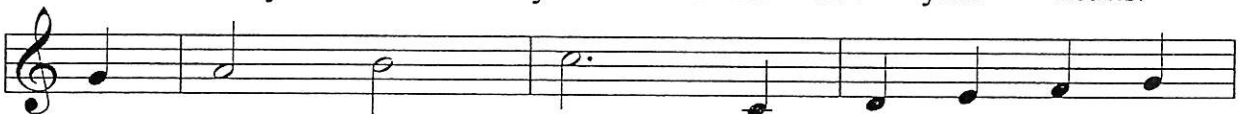
300 Come, Let Us Praise the Lord (Venite) (Psalm 95)



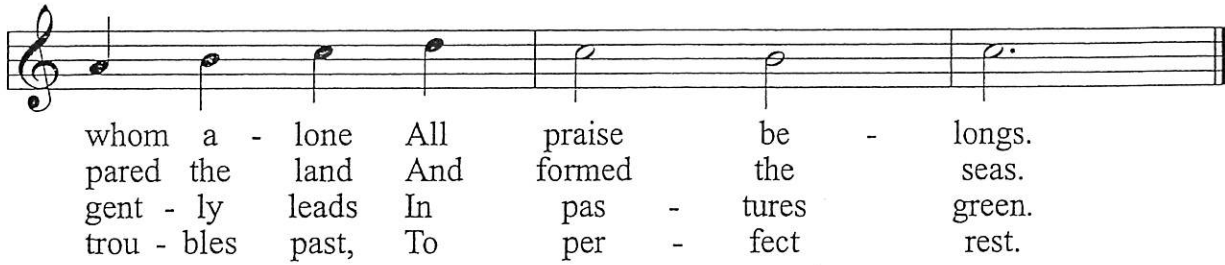
1 Come, let us praise the Lord, With joy our God ac - claim,
 2 Our God of match-less worth, Our King be - yond com - pare,
 3 In wor-ship bow the knee, Our glo - rious God con - fess;
 4 Come, hear His voice to - day, Re - ceive what love im - parts;



His great-ness tell a - broad And bless His sav - ing name.
 The deep - est bounds of earth, The hills, are in His care.
 The great Cre - a - tor, He, The Lord of Righ - teous - ness.
 His ho - ly will o - bey And hard-en not your hearts.



Lift high your songs Be - fore His throne To
 He all de - crees, Who by His hand Pre -
 He reigns un - seen: His flock He feeds And
 His ways are best And lead at last, All



Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89

Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OAR Hymn License no. 110001403

Tune: Public domain

Psalm (in unison)

Psalm 25:1-10; antiphon: v. 4

- ¹To you, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.
- ²O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.
- ³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame;*
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.
- ⁴Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;*
teach me | your paths.
- ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my sal- | vation;*
for you I wait all the | day long.
- ⁶Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your | steadfast love,*
for they have been | from of old.
- ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my trans- | gressions;*
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, | O LORD!
- ⁸Good and upright | is the LORD;*
therefore he instructs sinners | in the way.
- ⁹He leads the humble in | what is right,*
and teaches the humble | his way.
- ¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and | faithfulness,*
for those who keep his covenant and his testi- | monies.

Readings

Old Testament

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and

trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 21:23–32

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Responsory

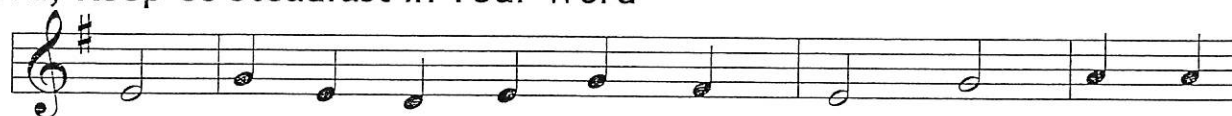
- L** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Sit

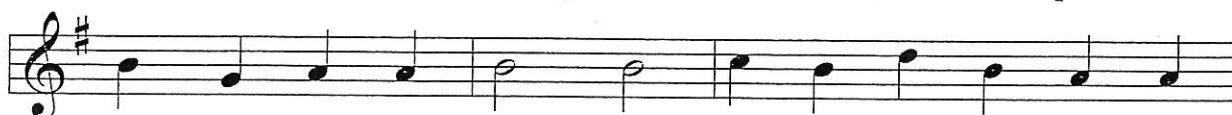
Children Sing "Not Alone" (from "Tropical Trek" VBS)

Children's Message

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon "Holding Fast to the Word of Life"

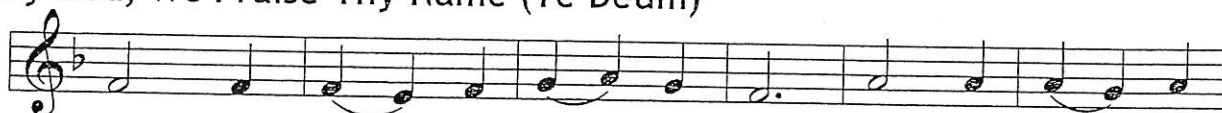
Philippians 2:1-18

Canticle

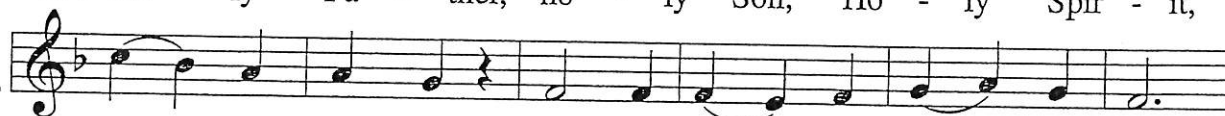
Stand

940 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (Te Deum)

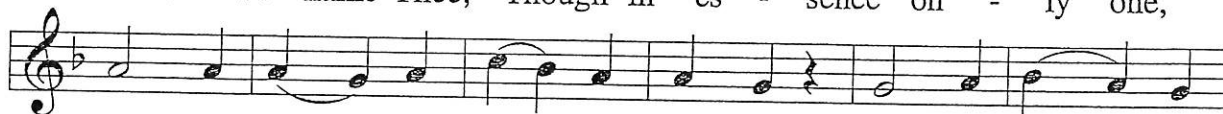
sts. 1-5



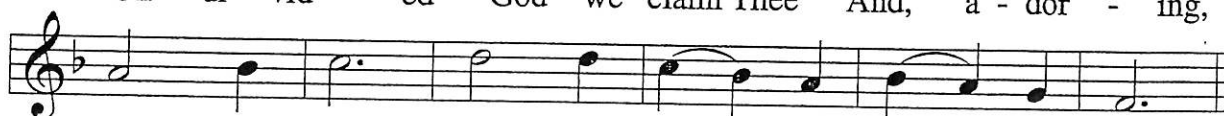
1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -
 3 Lo, the a - pos - tles' ho - ly train Join Thy sa - cred
 4 Thou art King of Glo - ry, Christ; Son of God, yet
 Δ 5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
 above are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 born of Mar - y. For us sin - ners sac - ri - ficed,
 three we name Thee; Though in es - sence on - ly one,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
 In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with
 And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to
 As to death a Trib - u - tar - y, First to break the
 Un - di - vid - ed God we claim Thee And, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
 sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
 set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.
 bars of death, Thou hast o - pened heav'n to faith.
 bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: Latin, c. 4th cent.; German version Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900, alt.
 Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

Offering

Reception of New Members & Confirmation of Melissa Sprehe

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

- C** Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

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

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 Grace

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.

G Amen.

Stand

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G Amen.

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 -



Text: Lisa M. Clark, b. 1982

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

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Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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Pastor:
Brass Ensemble

Eric Wood
Julia Helbig & Sophia Wood (trumpets)
Reed Recker (baritone)
Rodney Helbig (tuba)

Birthdays, 27th Jenna Duggar, 28th Amber Frecker, 29th Hadley Hasheider, Glen Schuetz, Brianna Recker, 3rd Dominic Perry, Sharon Storck

September Ushers – Saturday –

Sunday – Mike Jacobs and Jeff Jacobs

Saturday service at 5:30 p.m.

Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. starting study of Apocrypha in October

Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.

Chapel at 12:30 p.m. this Wednesday with Pastor d'Entremont

New Members being received today are Kaitlyn Benfield (by profession of faith) and her son Caden Benfield; Gerry Mitchell (also by profession of faith), Nathan Spangle (by transfer from Zion, Mascoutah), and Melissa Sprehe (by adult confirmation) and her daughter Sylvia Sprehe. Please welcome them warmly to Immanuel, today and in the future.

Next Sunday, October 4, is LWML Sunday. All LWML members are asked to sit together at the Sunday morning service, towards the front on the pulpit side. Emily Wood will give a short presentation about LWML mites after the service.

Thank you for your donations so far for the toiletry collection at the Addieville food pantry! We have collected all the soap/body wash that we need. We still need a large amount of toilet paper, dish soap, and laundry detergent, needed by October 11. Thank you!

The Finance Committee will begin working on next year's offering envelopes. Please let Malinda know if you need or want a new box. The boxes will be the same as this year. We do have some members now using EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) for their contributions. Please contact Malinda at 618-713-5008

Immanuel Parish Nurses are looking for volunteers to help provide care in the home for the elderly, disabled, or anyone in need of some extra care. If you are interested or would like more information please reach out to Sharon Frederking at 618-599-2519 or email immanuelparishnurses@gmail.com.

SCHOOL NEWS

2025/2026 ILS yearbooks are available for purchase in the school office. They are \$35.00 each. Please call the school office or stop in to purchase one.

October 1st Fall Fundraiser begins: ILS students and staff will be selling butter braids, cookie dough, wrapping paper, cards, and so much more. There will be a order form in the Narthex or you can call the school office and/or see any ILS student or Wee Care child to order. Thank you for helping to make this fundraiser a success again this year.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Relay for Life

Relay for Life is Saturday, October 3. Join us in honoring and remembering those affected by cancer at this year's Relay for Life, to be held at the Washington County Courthouse from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. For additional information see flyer on bulletin board in narthex.

Right to Life

On the first Sunday in October, (10/4/26), the Washington County Right to Life is sponsoring the Right to Life chain for one hour from 2 to 3 p.m. at the intersection of Rt. 15 and Rt. 127 in Nashville, IL. This is a reminder for all the cars that pass by that unborn babies are precious in God's sight. There are prayers and songs on the back of the posters that you can pick up behind Lee's that read: Stop Abortion – Jesus loves children – Adoption, not Abortion – etc. We will meet in the parking lot behind Lee's Store at 1:45 p.m. Please Come!!

Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy

Patriots Pen is open to 6th – 8th grade students and Voice of Democracy is open to 9th – 12th grade high school students. This year's topic is "What a Veteran Taught Me about America". All submissions are due to the Okawville VFW Post by October 31st. You can find more information by visiting the websites vfw.org or vfwil.org. You can also call Steve Elliott at 618-830-6774 for details.

GENERAL NOTES

Life Thoughts in the Church Year:

The consistent refrain of the foes of life is something like, "You are more significant than others" or "Look to your own interests." This refrain seeps into the everyday routine of many because it resonates with our sinful nature. In fact, we grumble at the slightest infringements on our lives of convenience. The Apostle Paul instructs each of us to "look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4). The world tries to drum into our minds that raising up children, serving those in need, caring for the elderly, and tending to those who are dying are useless pursuits. But in Christ we see the value of each life and the joy that God provides in seeing people loved.

Life Quotes:

"Grief is not a sign of weak faith; it is the natural response to love and loss. But for those in Christ, grief is always shaped by hope. We do not mourn as those who have no future, no promise, no Savior (1 Thessalonians 4:13). We mourn with the certainty that our loved ones in the faith are with the Lord and that we will see them again." Rev. M.L. Smith, Director of International Missions of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Stewardship:

Matthew 21:26 – “But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd...” Foolish Pharisees! They fear men more than they fear God, and so they miss out on the great blessing of knowing Jesus and His love. All our sins are like this: we fear something more than we fear God. And how foolish that is! Just think of the blessings we miss out on whenever we place our fear or trust in something other than God.

Lutheran programs on Radio & TV on Sundays – 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 850 AM Radio KFUD
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, September 12, Sunday, September 13, Saturday, September 19,
and Sunday, September 20 were not counted.

Expenses for the week: \$11,803.36

Borrowed: \$10,000.00 on 06/30/26; \$6,000.00 on 07/08/26; \$12,000.00 on 09/14/26

Thrivent Choice: Immanuel Lutheran Church received \$75.00 from “Thrivent Choice Dollars”
designations in September. Thank you to everyone who directed their “Thrivent Choice
Dollars” to Immanuel. 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 it to Immanuel 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. RBM Golf Course donated
\$126.70 for the 1st six months of 2026. Thank you for your support!