



IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Manitowoc, Wisconsin

April 25-28, 2024

Welcome

Thanks for being here! We truly pray that today you find the warmth of our Christian hospitality, the powerful truth of God's Word and the peace-giving assurance of his promises. If we can assist you in any way, please ask. We hope you worship with us again!

If Immanuel Is New to You:

Relax. At Immanuel, our worship is designed to praise God and enrich faith. We aim to make the service clear and appropriately reverent. For your convenience, the service is printed for you here as well as displayed on our screens.

Bring the kids. Our congregation really loves and encourages the worshiping family – there is no better way for them to learn how to listen and pray than by bringing them to church! So, if your children are acting up, please know it's never a bother to our worship service. However, if you're concerned your fellow worshipers are being distracted and you'd like a place to calm a restless little one, our lobby area with screens and audio might allow you to continue your worship with us.

Restrooms are located in the lobby, just to the right of the elevator.

Make yourself at home. You don't have to rush off after the service today. Light refreshments are typically provided in our lobby after the 8:00 am service. If you are comfortable, feel free to follow up with one of our Pastors - we'd be honored if you would take the time to introduce yourself!

Don't feel obligated. Our members give financial offerings to the Lord as an expression of thanks and praise for his amazing love. Please know that you are our guests and we're simply happy you've come to hear about Jesus and his Word today. You're not expected to give an offering; it's your choice.

Cell phones. To remove as many distractions as possible from worshipping God today, we kindly ask that you silence your phone before the service.

Questions? If you'd like to know more about our church or our beliefs, or have questions about our PreK thru 8th grade school, feel free to contact our pastors or principal at any time (*contact info included on the announcement insert*). You may also browse the information counter in our lobby for magazines, brochures and devotional resources.



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN

We Worship Our Good Shepherd

God's Grace Keeps on Giving – *A Focused Life* (Week 4)

Eternal Encouragement

2 Thessalonians 2:16,17—May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father who **loved** us and by his **grace** gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, **encourage** your hearts and **strengthen** you in every good deed and word.

A Barrier to Generosity

Luke 12:15—Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life **does not** consist in the abundance of his possessions.

➤ **A false illusion:** _____

Where is My Home?

Hebrews 11:3—Pilgrims, strangers, aliens on earth.

2 Corinthians 5:20—Ambassadors representing our country.

Philippians 3:20—Our citizenship is in heaven.

GRACE TRUTH #4

➤ _____ not _____ is my _____.

GRACE TRUTH #5

➤ God calls us to _____, not _____

Chasing the Wind

Ecclesiastes 5:10—¹⁰Whoever loves money **never** has money enough; whoever loves wealth is **never** satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. ¹¹As goods increase, so do those who **consume** them. And what benefit are they to the owner

except to **feast** his eyes on them? ¹²The sleep of a laborer is **sweet**, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him **no sleep**.

¹³I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth **hoarded** to the harm of its owner, ¹⁴or wealth **lost** through some misfortune, so that when he has a son there is nothing left for him. ¹⁵Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes **nothing** from his labor that he can carry in his hand.

Ecclesiastes 2:11—When I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; **nothing was gained under the sun**.

A Gracious Command

1 Timothy 6:17-19—¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be **arrogant** nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so **uncertain**, but to put their hope in God, who richly **provides** us with **everything** for our enjoyment.

¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be **generous** and willing to **share**. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm **foundation** for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is **truly life**.

GRACE TRUTH #6

➤ _____ is a great _____ to _____

Our Opening Prayer

PASTOR: Oh God, to you and you *alone* belong all glory, honor and majesty: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Now, may the words of our mouths

CONG: and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing in your sight as we worship you today!

We Pray & Praise – “Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening”

(CW 631:1,2)

We Prepare for God’s Mercy

Dear friends, God’s good news awakens two responses in a human heart: an intense

longing for him and an equally intense resentment. On the one hand we want forgiveness from our merciful God. But, on the other hand, our pride resists the truth that every one of us are helpless to right the wrongs we have committed against our Holy God. The truth that we cannot earn or win anything from God is impossible to accept on our own. Either we must receive his grace **as a gift** or **do without** it. He will do nothing for us if we think we are sufficient of ourselves. So, we confess that we are destitute and can only approach him with empty hands.

We Admit Our Guilt

Lord Jesus, you told us to be perfect as God the Father is perfect.

We confess that we, like all people, sin and fall short of that standard.

We have not even perfectly loved those who love us.

And we have neglected to do so many other things you command.

So with bowed heads and humbled hearts we can only plead,

Father, we have sinned against others and you; forgive us for Jesus' sake.

We Pray & Praise – “Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening” *(CW 631/words: below)*

Lord, forgive all my transgressions, all your paths from which I've strayed.

Let my eyes see your salvation, where your cross my debt was paid.

Thanks because you did arise and have opened paradise!

Through your resurrection story, I will live with you in glory!

God Promises the Certainty of Our Forgiveness

After King David confessed his guilt, the prophet Nathan eagerly shared this truth, *“The Lord has taken away your sins!”* Jesus once comforted a sinful woman by reassuring her, *“Your sins are forgiven.”* And after his resurrection he announced to his disciples, *“As the Father sent me, I am sending YOU... If you forgive anyone their sins, they are forgiven.”* My friends, you've confessed your own sins today; believe God's good news of forgiveness for you. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, *YOUR sins are forgiven!*

We Pray & Praise – “Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening”

(CW 631:3,4)

Message from God's Word – John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

Things I'd like to remember this week...

God Has HIS Way of Making Productive Christians

We Pray & Praise – “A Vineyard”

(tune: I Know My Redeemer Lives)

Amid the world's bleak wilderness – a vineyard grows with promise green;

The planting of the LORD himself – to all the world He will be seen.

His love selected our terrain; His vine with love He planted here;

To bear the choicest fruit for Him – in thanks and joy from children dear.

We are His branches chosen dear, and though we feel the Dresser's knife,

We are the objects of His care – pruned, fed and prepped for servant life.

FROM Him we draw the pow'r to live, FOR Him supply His winery...

With fruit from which true joys derive – blest we, to Him all glory be!



ilutheran.org/give

Offerings of Thanks

If you are visiting today, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. Our church family joyfully gives these gifts as one of the many ways we can say “thank you” to Jesus. You are here as our guest



ilutheran.org/imhere

Our Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Following Our Prayer we join to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Our Profession of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Lord, your mercy is only ours through Jesus. As you have nourished our faiths through our connection to the vine, now, we pray, produce fruits of faith in our lives...

So that we may always express our thanks for your undeserved love!

God's Blessing

Our Closing Prayer - “Let It Be Said Of Us”

**Let it be said of us that the Lord was our passion,
That with gladness we bore ev’ry cross we were given;
That we fought the good fight, that we finished the course,
Knowing within us the pow’r of the risen Lord.**

**Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song,
By mercy made holy, by the Spirit made strong.**

**Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song
‘Til the likeness of Jesus be through us made known.**

Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.

**Let it be said of us: we like Christ were forgiving,
We were known by our love and with patience were living.
We were ruled by His peace heeding unity’s call,
Joined as one body that Christ would be seen by all.**

**Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song,
By mercy made holy, by the Spirit made strong.**

**Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song
‘Til the likeness of Jesus be through us made known.**

Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.

*Words and music: Steve Fry © 1994, 1999 Words Music, LLC (div. of Word Music Group, Inc.) /
Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publishing (admin. Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing,
Inc.). All rights reserved. CCLI License #2611556.*



Musician: Ann Wilson

Worship Leader: Pastor Matt Zimpelmann