

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RALLY SUNDAY

September 7, 2025

*"Sanctified in the Truth of Christ"*

## AS WE GATHER

"Christian" education is learning and training in the Word of God. It begins with a simple Bible story telling in childhood and continues throughout life in our worship, Sunday School, and Bible Classes as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Today we thank God for teaching us His saving and life-giving truth, and ask His continual blessing on us as we recommit ourselves to the responsibility of Christian education, beginning with the family. Mom and dad are the preachers, teachers, and professors in their own home. After that, and with their support, our children receive additional instruction from teachers and pastors in our congregation. Today we pledge our prayerful support and individually, we are summoned to continued education in the Lord's Word for ourselves, with the aim expressed by the apostle Paul, that we may "be transformed by the renewal of [our] mind[s], that by testing [we] may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (*Romans 12:2*).

## THE WELCOME

### THE OPENING HYMN #914 "Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten"



1 Light of Light, O Sole - Be - got - ten Ra - diance of the  
2 Word e - ter - nal, through Your be - ing God cre - at - ed  
3 Still Your brood - ing Spir - it hov - ers O - ver cha - os,  
4 Come, Lord Je - sus, by Your Spir - it In our hearts Your



Fa - ther's face, Word made flesh, who lived a - mong us  
all we see, When the emp - ty spac - es ech - oed  
dark and deep, Call - ing out with in - vi - ta - tion:  
work be - gin, Bring the heal - ing res - to - ra - tion



Full of truth and full of grace, Shine up - on our  
With the Fa - ther's "Let there be . . ." Light and life burst  
"Rise, a - wak - en from your sleep; Christ the Lord will  
Of Your im - age lost by sin; From Your full - ness



hu - man dark - ness; Pierce the night that shrouds our race.  
from the glo - rious Pow - er of Your maj - es - ty!  
shine up - on you And from death your soul shall keep."  
all re - ceiv - ing Grace on grace, new life with - in!

*(please stand)*

## **THE INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER** *Psalm 86:11, adapted*

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Teach us Your way, O Lord, and we will live by Your truth.

**C: Give each of us an undivided heart to fear Your name.** *Psalm 86:11, alt.*

## **THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

**C: If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

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

P: In true humility, let us confess our sins.

**C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to You that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by my actions and by my failure to act in mercy toward others. Even though I have tasted Your Word, still, spiritual ignorance gains the upper hand and I have much yet to learn. Forgive my sins and assure me of the gracious power of Your Word to be my defense and shield against the powers of evil. 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.**

*(please be seated)*

## **THE PSALM OF THE DAY** *Psalm 25 (Selected Verses)*

P: To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**C: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.**

P: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation;  
for You I wait all the day long.

**C: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

P: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

**C: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way.**

P: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way.

**C: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

**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.**

## THE HYMN #817 "Earth and All Stars" (verses 1, 6, 7)

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets! Sing to the  
Lord a new song! Oh, vic - to - ry! Loud shout - ing  
ar - my! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
*Refrain*  
He has done mar - vel - ous things.  
I too will praise Him with a new song!

6) Knowledge and truth!  
Loud sounding wisdom!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son!  
Loud praying members!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

7) Children of God,  
Dying and rising,  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Heaven and earth,  
Hosts everlasting,  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

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## THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, Your Holy Spirit gives to one the word of wisdom, and to another the word of knowledge, and to another the word of faith. We praise You for the gifts of grace imparted to us through Christian parents, pastors, and teachers. By their teaching lead us to a fuller knowledge of the truth which we have seen in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Proverbs 3:1-8 (ESV)

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and

do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 (ESV)

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him”—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

### **THE RESPONSORY** *(sung)* “Thy Word”

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path.**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path.**

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### **THE HOLY GOSPEL** John 17:18-23 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

“As You [Father] sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one, I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE NICENE CREED

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 of the world to come. Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE HYMN OF THE DAY #861 "Christ Be My Leader"



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

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## THE SERMON "Sanctified in the Truth of Christ" Text: John 17:18-23

## THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #588 *“Jesus Loves Me! This I Know”*

1) Jesus loves me! This I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.

2) Jesus loves me! He who died  
Heaven's gates to open wide.  
He has washed away my sin,  
Let's His little child come in.  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.

## THE PRESENTATION OF BIBLES AND CERTIFICATES

### THE REDEDICATION AND INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS AND HELPERS

#### **The Teachers' Commitments**

P: Teaching in a Lutheran congregation's education program is a covenant—an agreement between teacher, parents, students, and congregation, in which all parties rely solely on the grace and strength of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to carry out their respective duties. Teaching our youth is one of the most important tasks God gives to His workers. Being a teacher indicates that you are committed to the mission of Christ, and that you believe in the love of God as revealed through Christ alone.

You are to assist Pastor Kaiser and me, this congregation's ministers of Word and Sacrament, in the instruction of God's people according to His holy Word. You are to prepare yourselves for this work by your individual and corporate study of the Word of God and the faith drawn from it as it has been delivered to us in the Small Catechism.

While holiness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion.

In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the position entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: I do.

***Teachers and Staff: I do.***

#### **The Parents' Commitments**

P: All teachers represent more than just themselves. They represent all other members of the congregation. Indeed, work that can be accomplished by any teacher is either enlarged or limited in direct proportion to the support given by all members of the congregation, including family members of students and teachers. Will you support these committed teachers and leaders as they join in the task of the Christian education of your children?

***Parents: We commit to assist these teachers and their service by encouraging our children as they prepare their lessons, pray in our homes, and take part in weekly worship.***

## **The Congregations' Commitments**

- P: Members of Immanuel, will you commit yourselves to this task, supporting your teachers both in service and financial resources? Will you pray for the success of your Sunday School, Preschool, and Confirmation Classes? Will you entrust the Christian education of this congregation into the hands of these committed teachers and leaders?
- C: We rejoice that these workers have accepted the responsibility of teaching in our congregation, and we pledge that they will not stand alone in this task. Because they act in our name, and in the name of Christ, we commit ourselves to support them as they teach those placed in their care. We pray God's blessing on them.**
- P: Let us pray. O Lord, grant to these Your people the gifts of wisdom and discretion, kindness and faithfulness, so that they may effectively teach and guide, and grant to all Your people a ready willingness to learn. Let the knowledge of Your Word be preserved and extended among us so that all may know and praise You now and forever; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.**
- P: Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C: Amen.**

*(please stand)*

## **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(Each petition concludes with the response: 'Let us pray to the Lord:' "Lord, have mercy.")*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**


*(please be seated)*

# THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

## #547 "The Lamb"

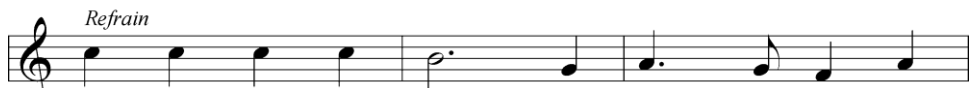


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?  
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.  
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill  
 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.  
 5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.




Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.  
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.  
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.  
 His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

*Refrain*



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

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## #620 "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my  
2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and  
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the  
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.  
wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,  
Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,  
me this hour— In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His  
Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the  
Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter  
On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."  
pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.  
death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.  
grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

**5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,  
Whose own feast of love I savor,  
Bidden by His gracious call.  
Wedding garments He provides me,  
With a robe of white He hides me,  
Fits me for the royal hall.**

**6 Now have I found consolation,  
Comfort in my tribulation,  
Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,  
Cleanses me from sin and error,  
Makes my wounded spirit whole.**

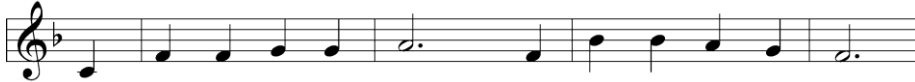
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Tune: Public domain

## #863 "Our Father, by Whose Name"



1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name All fa - ther-hood is known,  
 2 O Christ, Thy - self a child With - in an earth - ly home,  
 3 O Spir - it, who dost bind Our hearts in u - ni - ty,



Who dost in love pro - claim Each fam - i - ly Thine own,  
 With heart still un - de - filed, Thou didst to man-hood come;  
 Who teach - est us to find The love from self set free,



Bless Thou all par - ents, guard - ing well, With con - stant love as  
 Our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place That they may all be -  
 In all our hearts such love in - crease That ev - 'ry home by



sen - ti - nel, The homes in which Thy peo - ple dwell.  
 hold Thy face, And know - ing Thee may grow in grace.  
 this re - lease May be the dwell - ing place of peace.

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Tune: Public domain

## #862 "Oh, Blest the House"



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Oh, blest that house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol - ly  
 hope and love a - bound; They trust their God and serve Him  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care or  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives is  
 prom - ise make and say: Though all the world for - sake His



His— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 still And do in all His ho - ly will!  
 cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 shown How rich - ly God can bless His own.  
 Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

*(please stand)*

## THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in ☩ peace.

C: Amen.

## THE POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You call us Your children, heirs of the blessings You bestow without any merit or worthiness in us. We thank You for the victory won for us out of Your mercy, and for feeding us with this foretaste of the feast to come when all Your heirs will be free from sin and sorrow; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## THE BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24-26*

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you ☩ and give you peace.

C: Amen.

*(please be seated)*



## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Immanuel Lutheran Congregation  
501 Glad Street, Schleswig

INVITES YOU TO THE ANNUAL

### Calf Show Dinner

Saturday, September 13, 2025

After the Parade — until 1:00 p.m.

Schleswig Community Building



Age 11 to Adult: \$15.00  
Children 10 and under: \$10.00

Serving:

Staley's Broasted Chicken Dinner  
with Homemade Desserts

Carry-outs can be picked up  
in the City Building next to the Community Building.

For deliveries, please phone the Church Office before Saturday,  
at 676-2235 during regular office hours.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY 2025

## **Three-Year-Olds Receiving "The Beginner's Bible"**

Karson O'Brien  
Charlee Rohlf  
Axel Walker

## **First Grade Students Receiving "My First Catechism"**

Kye Bielenberg  
Rhett Jepsen  
Maverick Walker

## **Third Grade Students Receiving "One Hundred Bible Stories"**

Rex Bielenberg  
Whitley Brown  
Everett Lee  
Hannah Ogren

## **Fifth Grade Students Receiving "Faith Alive Bibles"**

Kyler Bruhn  
Haley Ernst  
Larynn Friedrichsen  
Nash Heiden  
Ava Jacobson  
Raymond Jepsen  
Karsen Keim  
Harper Lee  
Harley McManigal  
Cristine Velasquez  
Kimber Wood

## **2025-2026 Teachers and Staff**

### **Nursery-Preschool-TK Kindergarten-First-Second Grades**

MacKenzie Jorgensen  
Tayten Kline

### **Third-Fourth Grades**

Amanda Bruhn  
Lila Bubke

### **Fifth Grade**

Amanda Ashbrook  
Laura Ernst

### **Sixth-Seventh-Eighth Grades**

Tiffany Friedrichsen  
Chris Mahnken

### **Sunday School Superintendents**

Laura Ernst  
Kasey Lee

### **Cradle Roll**

Judy Gierstorf

### **Confirmation**

K'Lynn Harm  
Pastor Mahnken  
Susan Schulz

### **Immanuel Preschool**

Leslie Gustafson: Director/Teacher  
Haleigh Galloway: Associate Teacher  
Lisa Schroeder: Administrative Assistant



## **2024-2025 Teachers and Staff**

### **Nursery-Preschool-TK-Kindergarten-First**

MacKenzie Jorgensen—2 years  
Tayten Kline—2 years  
Jessica Ogren—7 years

### **Second-Third Grade**

Amanda Bruhn—21 years  
Lila Bubke—34 years

### **Fourth-Fifth Grade**

Amanda Ashbrook—2 years  
Laura Ernst—2 years\*  
Amy Hoffmeier—7 years

### **Sixth-Seventh Grade**

Tiffany Friedrichsen—2 years  
Chris Mahnken—27 years  
Kristin Palmersheim—2 years\*

### **Sunday School Superintendents**

Laura Ernst—4 years  
Kasey Lee—1 year  
Kristin Palmersheim—4 years

### **Cradle Roll**

Judy Gierstorf—11 years

### **Confirmation**

Pastor Mahnken—29 years  
Susan Schulz—1 year

### **Immanuel Preschool**

Leslie Gustafson: Director/Teacher—9 years  
Ezra Bergman: Associate Teacher—1 year  
Lisa Schroeder: Administrative Assistant—9 years

*\*These individuals have served additional years in other capacities in our Sunday School.*