

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RALLY SUNDAY

September 10, 2023

*“Humble Faith”*

## AS WE GATHER

Today Jesus makes a child the sermon, saying, "unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (*Matthew 18:3*). We like to think of ourselves as mature adults, independent and able to take charge of our lives, acting as if we are God. No children's stuff for us! A child, though, is one who is totally dependent on father and mother for all of life, just as we are dependent on God the Father for all of life. Becoming like a child in humble faith, however, is impossible apart from the grace of God in Christ, whose blood has reconciled us to the Father and enables us to be reconciled with one another in the forgiveness of sins.

## THE WELCOME

### THE OPENING SONG *“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.**

- 1) **When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,  
Still You're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.  
Please be near me to the end.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**
  
- 2) **I will not forget Your love for me, and yet  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;  
And I will love You to the end.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

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*(please stand)*

## THE INVOCATION AND OPENING VERSES

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

**C: Amen.**

**P:** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,

**C: and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.**

**P:** Let the wise hear and increase in learning

**C: and the one who understands obtain guidance.**

**Fathers: Hear, my child, your father's instruction,**

**Mothers: and forsake not your mother's teaching. (Proverbs 9:10; 1:5, 8)**

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Gathered in the name of our saving God, we celebrate God's Great Commission especially as it is carried out in the educational ministries of our church.

**C: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."**

*Matthew 28:19-20*

P: Let us examine ourselves in the light of God's holy teaching and seek His forgiveness.

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

P: Merciful Father,

**C: we confess that we are not the children You created us to be. Our sin has separated us from You and marked us on the path of death and destruction. We confess that we are sinful by nature and that we have added to this sin by our thoughts, words, and actions that break Your Law. Trusting in the forgiveness Jesus won for us on the cross, we come before You to beg Your mercy and to restore Your fallen children. Forgive us our sins and create in us new hearts that we may love You with our whole heart and in obedience follow You all the days of our lives. 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: in You I trust, O my God.**

P: Show me Your ways, O LORD, teach me Your paths;

**C: Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior.**

P: Remember, O LORD, Your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

**C: Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;**

P: According to Your love remember me, for You are good, O LORD.

**C: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in His ways.**

P: He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.

**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.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, Your Holy Spirit works in us by Your Word of wisdom and knowledge to bless us with faith in Jesus our Savior and to direct our lives for Your glory. 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** Deuteronomy 6:4-15 (ESV)

Hear, O Israel: The **LORD** our God, the **LORD** is one. You shall love the **LORD** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. And when the **LORD** your God brings you into the land that He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the **LORD**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. It is the **LORD** your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by His name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—for the **LORD** your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the **LORD** your God be kindled against you, and He destroy you from off the face of the earth.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** *(spoken)* **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE EPISTLE** 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** *(spoken)* **Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

## **THE ALLELUIA VERSES #578** “*Thy Strong Word*” (verses 3 & 6)

**Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess.**

**Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!**

**Al-le-lu-ia, al-el-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia without end!**

**God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory, be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 18:1-20 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**C:** *(spoken)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of My Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

*(please be seated)*

## THE BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR SEPTEMBER ~ Psalm 27:1 (ESV)

The 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?

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL'S SONG "Covered in Jesus' Grace"

## THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## THE HYMN OF THE DAY #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



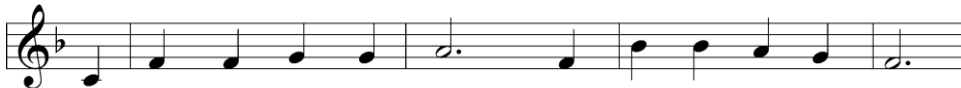
Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol - ly  
hope and love a - bound; They trust their God and serve Him  
chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care or  
joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives is  
prom - ise make and say: Though all the world for - sake His



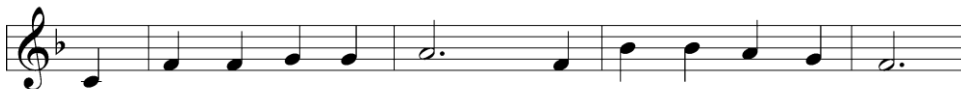
His— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
still And do in all His ho - ly will!  
cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
shown How rich - ly God can bless His own.  
Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

## THE SERMON "Humble Faith" Text: Matthew 18:1-20

## THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS & HYMN #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

## THE PRESENTATION OF BIBLES AND CERTIFICATES

### THE RITE OF COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**P:** Our gracious God has worked faith in our hearts so that we may joyfully respond to His will and purpose. Let us therefore commit ourselves to the important task of teaching and receiving the truth of the Gospel and deepening the trust we have in Christ, our Savior.

God instructs us to teach His Word diligently to our children (*Deut. 6:6-9*). Jesus teaches us, "Whoever hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house upon the rock" (*Matt. 7:24*), and through St. Paul God assures us, "The Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" and they are "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (*2 Tim. 3:15-17*).

The words and promises of God are not only for us and our children. Peter said it is also "for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls." (*Acts 2:39*).

**C:** **We commit ourselves as a congregation to the ministry of education, and inviting our friends and neighbors, our fellow citizens and visitors, to learn about the triune God, His love, mercy, and forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**P:** God has promised that His Word "shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (*Isaiah 55:11*). May the

Holy Spirit continue to use Word and Sacrament to enable us to keep the commitments we have made this day, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS, HELPERS, AND STAFF**

P: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, you are to be installed as educational staff here at Immanuel, a work in which our Father in heaven has great joy.

You are to assist me, this congregation's minister 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 & Staff: I do.**

P: Fellow members of Immanuel, you have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.

**C: We do.**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I install you to serve with me as the educational staff at Immanuel Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: The almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your service that you may be good and faithful leaders and teachers to the glory of His name and the salvation of His people.

P: Let us pray. O Lord, grant to these Your servants 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.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Merciful God, You are our Wisdom from above, the source of all knowledge. We give You thanks and eternal praise especially for Your majestic plan of salvation for the whole world in the cross of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord. Enlighten the minds of every person to believe the good news of the Gospel that many may be given the gift of eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Thanks and praise to You, O Lord, for our parents, teachers, pastors, professors, and theologians who faithfully deliver the truth of Your Word in home, church, school, and every form of instruction. Help us so to learn and know Your Word that we, too, may pass it on to our children and neighbors, that the glory of Your salvation may continue to shine brightly in our world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Grant success and blessing to our Lutheran schools: our preschool and all the elementary, high schools, universities, and seminaries of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, established for the glorious task of handing down the truth of Your pure Word through each generation. Raise up many to take on the task of teaching in Your Church in the years to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Make bold our missionaries through growing faith in the Word they also share with others. We especially pray for Pastor David and Rachel Baker, Pastor Pedro and Paquita Lopez, Judy Newhouse, Pastor Vance and Linda Becker, Pastor Eric and Johanna Stinnett, Pastor John Duitsman and the African Radio Ministry, Jim Kaiser and the work of the Lutheran Bible Translators, and Mission Development Counselors Gary Thies and Pastor Steve Schulz. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Give Your abundant blessing to the spread of the message of salvation through the mission grants of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Bless our gifts joined with theirs in fervent gratitude for our Savior's dying love for the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with You, the Savior of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: You have called men and women to vocations through which they care for the needs of others. Watch over and protect all who are working to care for those in need: the police and other law enforcement officials; doctors, nurses, and counselors; and all aid workers. Defend them from danger, and give them courage and strength to attend to their tasks to the best of their abilities and to the welfare of those under their care. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Lord, our God, You hold all creation in Your hands, caring for the birds of the air and clothing the lilies in the field. Watch over and protect all those who prepare for the harvest. Send seasonable weather and give us faith to trust You to provide for all our needs and thankful hearts for all Your goodness. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



P: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for all who are sick, injured, facing or recovering from surgery or other procedures. We pray, according to Your will, for healing for Jerrie Wigg, Linda Prussing, Karen Wood, Ken Winsor, Neal Nahnsen, Ryan Kragel, Barb Quandt, Carol Neddermeyer, Cindi Paulsen, Jan Schultz, Tom and Cathy Bubke, Marcus Lee, Ramona Anderson, Betty Lou Olson, Brenda Prussing, Mindi McKibbin, and those we remember before You in our hearts [*silent prayer*]. Grant each steadfast faith in Your good and gracious will, that they may put their trust and hope in Your comforting presence.  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has also taught us to pray . . .

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*printed inside the back cover of the hymnal*)

**THE BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

**THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY 2023

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

Izzi Miller  
Sophia Morgan  
Calvin Segebart

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

Kyler Bruhn  
Haley Ernst  
Larynn Friedrichsen  
Ava Jacobson  
Raymond Jepsen  
Karsen Keim

Harper Lee  
Harley McManigal  
Korbin Palmer  
Cristine Velasquez  
Kimber Wood

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

Rex Bielenberg  
Whitley Brown  
Everett Lee  
Hannah Ogren  
Liam Palmer

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

Theodore Cruz  
Oliver Nahnsen

## 2022-2023 Teachers and Staff

### Nursery-Preschool-TK-Kindergarten

Jessica Ogren—5 years  
Maria Valdez—3 years

### First-Second Grade

Amanda Bruhn—19 years  
Lila Bubke—32 years

### Third-Fourth-Fifth Grade

Amy Hoffmeier—5 years\*  
Angela Korner—5 years\*

### Sixth-Seventh-Eighth Grade

Ashley Beeck—8 years  
Cindy Stoppel—5 years\*

### Sunday School Superintendents

Laura Ernst—2 years  
Kristin Hennings—2 years

### Cradle Roll

Judy Gierstorf—9 years

### Confirmation

Chris Mahnken—25 years  
Pastor Mahnken—27 years

### Immanuel Preschool

Leslie Gustafson: Director/Teacher—7 years  
Judy Gierstorf: Associate Teacher—1 year  
Lisa Schroeder: Administrative Assistant—7 years

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

## **2023-2024 Teachers and Staff**

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

MacKenzie Jorgensen  
Tayten Kline

### **First-Second Grade**

Amanda Bruhn  
Lila Bubke

### **Third-Fourth Grade**

Amanda Ashbrook  
Laura Ernst  
Kristin Hennings

### **Fifth-Sixth Grade**

Tiffany Friedrichsen  
Amy Hoffmeier  
Angela Korner

### **Seventh-Eighth Grade**

Ashley Beeck  
Jessica Ogren  
Maria Valdez

### **Sunday School Superintendents**

Laura Ernst  
Kristin Hennings

### **Cradle Roll**

Judy Gierstorf

### **Confirmation**

Nancy Bielenberg  
Chris Mahnken  
Pastor Mahnken

### **Immanuel Preschool**

Leslie Gustafson: Director/Teacher  
Vicki Laughlin: Associate Teacher  
Lisa Schroeder: Administrative Assistant

**Immanuel Lutheran Congregation**  
**501 Glad Street, Schleswig**

**INVITES YOU TO THE ANNUAL**  
**Calf Show Dinner**

**Saturday, September 16, 2023**

**After the Parade — until 1:00 p.m.**

**Schleswig Community Building**



**Age 10 to Adult: \$12.00**

**Children 4-9: \$5.00**

**Children 1-3: \$2.00**

**Serving:**

**Staley's Broasted Chicken,  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,  
Green Beans, Coleslaw, Roll, Beverage,  
and 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.**