

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RALLY SUNDAY

September 8, 2024

“What Will You Do With the Word of God?”

THE OPENING HYMN *“Father Welcomes”*

refrain **Father welcomes all His children
To His fam'ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation,
Life forever has been won.**

**2 In the water, in the Word,
In His promise, be assured:
Those who are baptized and believe
Shall be born again. Refrain**

**1 Little children, come to me,
For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give,
Mercy for your sin. Refrain**

**3 Let us daily die to sin;
Let us daily rise with Him,
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
Live in the peace of God. Refrain**

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(please stand)

THE INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

THE OPENING VERSES

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.** (*Proverbs 9:10; 1:5*)

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: **[Jesus said] “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 self-examination)

C: **Merciful God, we confess that we are not the children You created us to be. Our sin has separated us from You. 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 for Your mercy. Restore us, 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.

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Merciful and gracious Lord, You cause Your Word to be proclaimed in every generation. Stir up our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may receive this Proclamation with humility and finally be exalted at the coming of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

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 take your oaths. 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: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 14–17 (ESV)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. . . . 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 competent, equipped for every good work.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE ALLELUIA VERSE *"Thy Strong Word"* #578 verse 3

**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!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 18:9-17 (ESV)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Now they were bringing even infants to Him that He might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him, saying, "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

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.

THE MEMORY VERSE *What is Baptism?* from Luther's Small Catechism

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word. *Which is that word of God?* Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

(please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

- 1) Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
- 2) Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.
- 3) Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

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THE SERMON *"What Will You Do With the Word of God?"* Text: Deuteronomy 6:4-15

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS *"We Give Thee But Thine Own"* #781

- 1) We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 2) May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give!
- 6) And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

THE PRESENTATION OF BIBLES AND BOOKS

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 Pastor Kaiser and I, 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 & 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.

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: With humble hearts, Lord, we bring You our prayers. We remember Your acts of kindness to Your people through the ages. We thank You that we have come to know the Good News of the salvation that is ours in Jesus Christ. We praise You for the Church, which has transmitted the blessed Gospel to us, and we pray that it would grow unhindered in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Lord, You have shown great compassion to us; teach us to show such compassion to others, that we may welcome the stranger, love our neighbor in need, and be attentive to those new to the faith or vulnerable to temptation. Help us to serve the refugee seeking safety, and give us opportunity to share Your gifts with those who live in poverty and want. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, bless our missionaries who preach and teach Your Word, including Pastor David and Rachel Baker, Pastor Pedro and PaQuita Lopez, Judy Newhouse, Pastor Vance and Linda Becker, The African Radio Ministry, and Mission Development Counselors Gary Thies and Pastor Steve Schulz. Give the hearers willing ears to hear and willing hearts to learn the Scriptures well. Bless those now training to be pastors and church workers. Grant to all the baptized the aid of Your Holy Spirit so that, receiving Your Gospel with joy, we may share it freely with those outside the household of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Mighty God, give wisdom and courage to our elected and appointed leaders, that they may pursue justice, seek peace and protect life from its natural beginning to its natural end. Bring an end to the threats of terror and violence among the peoples, and open all nations to the voice of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, pour out Your blessing upon the mission grants of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, including the grant to provide assistance and hope for At-risk Pregnant and In-need Parenting Women. Guide all efforts to share the love of Jesus through opportunities for physical and spiritual care for those in need of restoration and redirection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Father, You know our weakness of body and soul. Give to the troubled in mind Your peace, to the suffering relief, to the sick healing, to the grieving comfort and deliver the dying into everlasting life. Hear us especially for Marlene Hight, Carolyn Schroeder, Jason Wiebers, Gloria Schmidt, Laurie Ricke and also for those named in our hearts [*silent prayer*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, giver of life, health, safety, and strength: receive our thanks and praise for blessing Grant Clausen, Kandi Teut and Jordan Richardson with healing. Fill their hearts with daily remembrance of Your goodness that they may serve You with a holy and obedient life through Jesus our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of heaven and earth, You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Bless our farmers and all who work with them as they prepare for the harvest. Grant us patience and faith as we look to You and Your perfect timing to give us all that we need for our daily bread. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

P: Giving Lord, all good things come from You. Open our hearts to be generous with the poor and to bring You the tithes and offerings You are due, that Your Church and all her agencies may serve Your gracious purpose and suffer no lack of people or resources to do the work of Your Kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now rejoice in Your eternal presence. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant way throughout our lives until that day when we share in the everlasting feast in Your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

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 2024

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

Reighlyn Bremser
Peyton Hanke

First Grade Students Receiving "My First Catechism"

Theodore Aldag
Henessey Harm
Autumn Johannsen
Liam Palmer
Andres Velasquez

Fifth Grade Students Receiving "Faith Alive Bibles"

Cameron Brown
Hailey Brown
Whitney Ernst
Isla Meseck
Emily Segebart
Logan Stoppel
Weston Stoppel

Third Grade Students Receiving "One Hundred Bible Stories"

Charlotte Ogren
Dennis Segebart
Stratton Stoppel



2023-2024 Teachers and Staff

Nursery-Preschool-TK-Kindergarten

Mackenzie Jorgensen—1 year
Tayten Kline—1 year

First-Second Grade

Amanda Bruhn—20 years
Lila Bubke—33 years

Third-Fourth Grade

Amanda Ashbrook—1 year
Laura Ernst—1 year*
Kristin Hennings—1 year*

Fifth-Sixth Grade

Tiffany Friedrichsen—1 year
Amy Hoffmeier—6 years
Angela Korner—6 years*

Seventh-Eighth Grade

Ashley Beeck—9 years
Jessica Ogren—6 years
Maria Valdez—4 years

High School

Calli Korner—2 years

Sunday School Superintendents

Laura Ernst—3 years
Kristin Hennings—3 years

Cradle Roll

Judy Gierstorf—10 years

Confirmation

Nancy Bielenberg—1 year*
Chris Mahnken—26 years
Pastor Mahnken—28 years

Immanuel Preschool

Leslie Gustafson: Director/Teacher—8 years
Vicki Laughlin: Associate Teacher—1 year
Lisa Schroeder: Administrative Assistant—8 years

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

2024-2025 Teachers and Staff

Nursery-Preschool-TK-Kindergarten-First

Mackenzie Jorgensen
Tayten Kline
Jessica Ogren

Second-Third Grade

Amanda Bruhn
Lila Bubke

Fourth-Fifth Grade

Amanda Ashbrook
Laura Ernst
Amy Hoffmeier

Sixth-Seventh Grade

Tiffany Friedrichsen
Kristin Hennings
Chris Mahnken

Sunday School Superintendents

Laura Ernst
Kristin Hennings

Cradle Roll

Judy Gierstorf

Confirmation

Pastor Mahnken
Susan Schulz

Immanuel Preschool

Leslie Gustafson: Director/Teacher
Ezra Bergman: Associate Teacher
Emily Vargas: Associate Teacher
Lisa Schroeder: Administrative Assistant