



13th Sunday after Pentecost

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa

Pastors: Rod Hopp, Zech Anderson, Jeniffer Tillman

www.immanuelfamily.com

in person | live stream | on the radio

September 7, 2025 9:15am

Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: "God's Work, Our Hands"

God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world,
Raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.

God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places unknown,
Walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your gospel.

God's work, our voice; singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
Praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.

God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your gospel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, 2019 ELCA, admin Augsburg Fortress; Music: David N. Johnson; Augsburg Publ. House, Augsburg Fortress

GREETING: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

pg. 138-139

HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast"

pg. 140-141

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING (SEMICONTINUOUS): Jeremiah 18:1-11 *Like a potter, the Lord will reshape Israel*

PSALM: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (SEMICONTINUOUS) [read responsively]

¹ Lord, you have searched me out; O Lord, you have known me.

² **You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³ You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ **Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

⁵ You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³ For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ **I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵ My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ **Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in
your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

¹⁷ How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸ **If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21 *Paul says: Receive Onesimus as a coworker*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33 *Jesus says: Disciples, give up your possessions and carry the cross*

Announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.** Conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON / SERMON

Pastor Rod Hopp

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"**

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AFFIRMATION OF OUR CALLING: YOU CALL US TO SERVICE

L: You call us to service; to be your eyes and ears, hands and voice in this, your world.

C: To open our eyes not only to the beauty and love which you create, but the injustice, hate, and suffering that humankind generates.

WOMEN: To open our ears not only to the chattering of this coming week, but the searching, fears and questioning of all whom we shall meet.

ALL: You call us to service, to be your eyes and ears, hands and voice in this, your beloved world that you long to love and heal.

Choir Director: Linda Ferjak