

For the
present form
of this
world
is passing away

1 Corinthians 7:31, NRSV



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

Silos are used by farmers to hold one thing. How often do we segregate our lives into separate silos? Family, money, work, vacation, religion—each in their own separate container never to be mixed or commingled. In today’s Epistle, Paul invites us to bring our marriage relationships into harmony with our relationship with God through faith in Jesus, who is at the heart of all our human relationships. This way, our lives are more like wheels, with many spokes connected by a hub. Jesus is the only hub of the wheel of our lives that can hold together all our spokes in an integrated and fully functional manner. God’s gracious invitation is to live life not as silos but as wheels—with Jesus at the center of everything.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

340 – Awake, My Soul, to Joyful Lays

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution Jon 3:2, 10; 1 Cor 7:29, 31; Mk 1:15, 17

P Hearing the Word of God, we are called to confess our sin, trusting in the one true God who is faithful and just and who will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Though Jonah was reluctant when the Lord spoke to him the first time, He spoke to Jonah a second time and told him, “go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.”

C **As You, O Lord, have given us the message of the Gospel, we have been reluctant to go bring Your truth and grace to all people. For this we seek Your forgiveness.**

P Paul reminds the people of God, “the time is short ... the form of this world is passing away.”

C **As You, O Lord, have given us each day and hold all time in Your hands, we have not used our time wisely. For this we seek Your forgiveness.**

- P** In today’s Gospel, Jesus called to Simon and Andrew, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him.
- C** **As You, O Lord, have called us to follow You, we have instead sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. For this we seek Your forgiveness.**
- P** Even to the evil Ninevites, God showed His mercy upon their repentance. “Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.” Jesus proclaimed to the people, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Though we deserve His present and eternal punishment, God has relented by sending His Son to bear our sin and to be our Savior. Christ has taken our punishment on the cross, paid the price of our sins through His perfect life and sacrificial death, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 113:1–2, 4, 7–8

- P** Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
C **Praise the name of the LORD!**
P Blessed be the name of the LORD
C **From this time forth and forevermore!**
P The LORD is high above all nations,
C **His glory above the heavens.**
P He raises the poor out of the dust,
C **And lifts the needy out of the ash heap,**
P That He may seat him with princes—
C **With the princes of His people.**
P Glory be to the Father and to the Son
C **And to the Holy Spirit**
P As it was in the beginning
C **Is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo-ry to God, we give you thanks and praise; Of
Lord Je-sus Christ, the Fa-ther's on-ly Son, You
A-lone, O Christ, You on-ly are the Lord, At
heav'n-ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor-ship
bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of
God's right hand in maj-es-ty most high: Who, with the
You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al-
God, Your glo-rious vic-t'ry won, Re-ceive our
Spir-it wor-shipped and a-dored, With all the
might-y Fa-ther, heav'n-ly King.
prayer, grant us Your peace with-in.
heav'n-ly host we glo-ri-fy.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹ Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,
² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.” ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. ⁴ And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”
⁵ So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. ¹⁰ Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 62

P Truly my soul silently waits for God;

C From Him comes my salvation.

P He only is my rock and my salvation;

C He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

P How long will you attack a man? You shall be slain, all of you,

C Like a leaning wall and a tottering fence.

P They only consult to cast him down from his high position; They delight in lies;

C They bless with their mouth, But they curse inwardly.

P My soul, wait silently for God alone,

C For my expectation is from Him.

P He only is my rock and my salvation;

C He is my defense; I shall not be moved.

P In God is my salvation and my glory;

C The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.

P Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him;

C God is a refuge for us.

P Surely men of low degree are a vapor, Men of high degree are a lie;

C If they are weighed on the scales, They are altogether lighter than vapor.

- P** Do not trust in oppression, Nor vainly hope in robbery;
- C** **If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them.**
- P** God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this:
- C** **That power belongs to God.**
- P** Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy;
- C** **For You render to each one according to his work.**

Gospel Reading

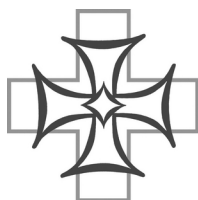
Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” ¹⁶ And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. ¹⁹ When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. ²⁰ And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.

Alleluia

- P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are
 writ - ten that we may believe that Je - sus is the Christ, the
 Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!



Confession of Faith

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.

Hymn

430 (1, 3-4, 8) – What Is the World to Me

Sermon Text

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹ But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, ³⁰ those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, ³¹ and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away.



Sermon

The Time is Short



Offertory



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir-it from me. Restore to me the joy of Your sal -
va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir-it free.

Hymn

423 (1-3, 6) – Jesus, I My Cross have Taken

Offering

Offering Hymn

788 (1)



Lord, You love the cheer-ful giv - er Who with o - pen
heart and hand Bless - es free - ly as a riv - er
That re - fresh - es all the land. Grant us, then, the

grace of giv-ing With a spir-it large and true
 That our life and all our liv-ing
 We may con-se-crate to You.

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

- 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.

Hymn

477 – Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule

January 21	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Installation of Officers)
January 27	9:00 am	Church Work Day
January 28	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
February 4	9:15 am	Confirmation Examination
	10:15 am	Worship Service

Daily Devotion: A new daily devotion is available on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/www.winterhavenlutheran.org/>. These devotions are a great way to start your day. They're also great to share with others as a way to introduce them to our congregation.

Church Workday: A church workday is scheduled for Saturday, January 27th beginning at 9:00 am. We will be painting the church. We will have all of the supplies you need, and lunch will be provided. Please join us as we beautify our church and enjoy fellowship together.

BELC Cyclone Aid: In early December, Cyclone Michaung struck the eastern coast of India and damaged and flooded churches of the BELC as well as the Martin Luther Bible School (MLBS) pastor training center. Eleven of the fourteen districts of the BELC were affected. A total of 55 churches, as well as the MLBS, were damaged by the cyclone and are in need of repair. The Board of Missions has approved \$12,000 of disaster relief to be sent from Kinship to assist with building repair and reconstruction. Please remember our brethren of the BELC in your prayers, and consider supporting this effort through offerings to Kinship.

ILC Tour Choir: For many years the ILC Tour Choir has been granted a special rate for using a charter bus during their yearly tour in holding concerts at various CLC congregations. This year that rate is being discontinued. After comparing the cost of using various bus companies, the common rate would be approximately \$11,000 higher than expected for budgetary reasons. Normally an offering is collected during the tour which will still happen. But this year CLC President Michael Wilke is authorizing this synod-wide announcement to allow others to share in their support of the Tour Choir. This offering would help offset the extra expense needed for the bus. Therefore, if members of CLC congregations wish to support this, please designate your offering to & "ILC Tour Choir."

Fruits of Faith		January 14, 2024	Attendance: WH – 29, Orlando - 12	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>		
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>		
\$1,454.25	General Budget	\$5.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,423.00	Weekly Need	-\$57.69	Weekly Need	
+\$31.25	-Under / +Over	-\$52.69	-Under / +Over	
\$3,510.50	Year to Date Offerings	\$5.00	Year to Date Offerings	
\$2,846.00	Year to Date Need	\$115.38	Year to Date Need	
+\$664.50	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$110.38	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		
	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund	
\$5.00	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund	
	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund	
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)	
	Benevolence Fund		Project Kinship	
	Sign Fund			

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

January 22-27, 2024

Monday: Matthew 11:25-30 – The Son glories in His relationship with the Father, and both Father and Son reveal themselves as gentle, humble, and saving, giving rest to weary souls.

Tuesday: Romans 5:1-5 – The glory of God which is ours in Christ is not diminished even by earthly sufferings, since even these work together for our good, producing patient endurance, tested character and hope.

Wednesday: Numbers 24:10-17 – King Balak is willing to pay Balaam to put a curse on the Children of Israel, but God uses Balaam to bless His people instead. “A star will come out of Jacob. A scepter will rise up out of Israel” (v17).

Thursday: Acts 3:22-26 – Peter preaches in the temple to the crowd gathered around the lame man healed, and points them to the One “in whom all the families of the earth will be blessed” (v25).

Friday: Genesis 28:11-17 – God reveals His presence to Jacob in a dream, and repeats to him the promise of blessing which will be to all the families of the earth through his offspring, the Savior!

Saturday: 2 Peter 1:2-9 – Blessings upon blessings are ours in the forgiveness of Christ Jesus our Lord! In fact, if we lack these blessings (moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, etc.), it is because we forget that in Him we have been cleansed from all our sins (v9).

CLC Financial Report - December

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2023	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 6 Months	Balance 12/31/2023
General Fund	0	559,727	578,390	595,800	(18,663)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	881,524	805,336	819,000	76,188
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	133,349	53,733	69,324		117,758
ILC Building Projects	1,279,816	231,842	65,536		1,446,122
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	95,621	97,863	96,040		97,444
Kinship	168,286	55,608	87,038		136,856
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,323,176	696,841	341,844		2,678,173
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	145,399	29,788	115,050		60,137
Reserve Fund	95,555	3,578	0		99,133
Auxiliary Funds Totals	\$4,241,202	\$1,169,253	\$774,832		\$4,635,623

General Fund – December receipts: **\$95,712 VS** disbursements: **\$80,264**. The General Fund subsidizes the work of the Boards of Missions, Trustees, EdPub, & Regents (including ILC.)

ILC Operations – December receipts: **\$177,091 VS** disbursements: **\$131,688**.

IIF – December receipts: **\$3,318 VS** disbursements: **\$1,257**.

ILC Building Projects – December receipts: **\$59,317** (including an \$52,628 increase in market value of investments) **VS** disbursements: **None**.

MDF – December receipts: **\$19,201 VS** disbursements: **\$16,431** (including \$5,000 for a vehicle).

Kinship – December receipts: **\$9,150 VS** disbursements: **\$2,517**.

CEF – December receipts: **\$116,538** (including a \$91,237 increase in market value of investments) **VS** disbursements: **\$16,250** (mostly payments on member loans to the CEF).

SAF – December receipts: **\$6,154 VS** disbursements: **\$38,273** (including student loans, grants, scholarships and tuition assistance).

Reserve Fund is currently invested in a money market account until needed, typically each fiscal year-end.

EduK8 Fund – December receipts: **\$288**. Balance **\$35,247**.

Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

