

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403

Phone: (715) 842-3644

<http://www.immanuelwausau.org>

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent, Year C



Please welcome Deacon Everett Schmidt as he leads us in Worship today.

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

Please stand if able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.
We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In **✝** Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn **“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”** **#756**

Greeting: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).
C: And also, with you.

Canticle of Praise **“This is the Feast”** **#140**

Prayer of the Day

P: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

R: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

R: Please read responsively to 63:1-8

O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)

¹ O God, you are my God; eager-¹ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary
land where there¹ is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your¹ holy place,
that I might behold your power¹ and your glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than¹ life itself;
my lips shall¹ give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long¹ as I live
and lift up my hands¹ in your name. R**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the rich-¹est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with¹ joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you up-¹on my bed,
and meditate on you in¹ the night watches.**

⁷ For you have¹ been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I¹ will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being¹ clings to you;
your right hand¹ holds me fast. R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

R: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

“Return To The Lord”

pg. 142

Gospel: Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Deacon Everett Schmidt

Silence for reflection.

Hymn of the Day

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

#624

Please stand if able.

Apostles’ Creed See the yellow sheet in the back of your hymnal.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: I invite you to share the Peace however you feel comfortable.

Please be seated for the Prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Read by our Lector today:

Sue Schwede

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After “God, in your mercy,” please respond with “hear our prayer.”

A brief silence.

Offertory Hymn

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

#186

The usher will bring up the offering plate, bread and wine.

Please stand if able.

Offering Prayer

P: Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

Deacon Everett Schmidt

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

pg. 144B

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

Please be seated.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. We believe Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine, that is his body and blood are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. If you do not wish to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing, please come forward during the distribution of communion. If you are unable to come forward during distribution and wish to receive communion, please let the usher know and the pastor will come to your seat.

Invitation to Communion

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Lamb of God

Communion Hymn

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

pg. 146

#623

Blessing after Communion

P: The blessing of God,

who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

✚ be upon you now and forever.

Prayer after Communion

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,

that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,

in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”

#658

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Attendance on 3/16/2025: 29

Prayer Concerns: Joan Bonstead, Judi McGill and Bob Henning for medical challenges. Leora Mitchell, Joan Winterhoff, Karen Spoehrs. (For updates, please contact the ILC Office)

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Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Pastor Elijah Lekwate. Email for Justice Pule: pulejustice74@gmail.com

Volunteers needed to Host Coffee Hours. The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

Serving us Today

Leader: Deacon Everett Schmidt

Organist/Pianist: Karen Z.

Reader: Sue Schwede

Usher: Mike Schwede

Video Recorder: Bob Henning

Altar Guild: Kathy Knox, Joanne Distelhorst, and Pattie Bricko

There will be a Special Congregation Meeting called by the President Bob Henning on March 30, 2025, at 9:15am. The purpose is to discuss the topic “Sale of Immanuel Lutheran Church Building and Grounds”. This is notification per Immanuel Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws, Page 15, Chapter 9. Congregation Meeting, C9.02.



St. John Lutheran Church, 5304 44th Avenue Wausau, WI 54401

- **Lenten Dinners at 5pm** (Every Wednesday in Lent – excluding Holy Week) March 5, 2025 – April 9, 2025
- **Lenten Services at 6:30pm** (Starting with Ash Wednesday March 5, 2025 – April 9, 2025)

Holy Week

- **Thursday, April 17 at 6:30** - Maundy Thursday Service
- **Friday, April 18 at 6:30** - Good Friday Service
- **Easter Sunday, April 20** - Services at 8:00 and 10:30, breakfast at 9:00

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, 150202 County Rd NN Wausau, WI 54401

- **Lent** will begin with Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, when we will mark the beginning of the 40 days of Lent together. Pr. Rich Block will preside over these services at 12:15 and 6:15 pm with the Handbell Choir playing at 6:15 pm.
- **Lenten Soup Supper.** Wednesdays 1-6 pm | **March 9-April 9** in Fellowship Hall. It is time once again to share in fellowship and soup supper. There will be 3 soup varieties each week along with a vegetarian option. The weekly “Network”

will list the soups for the upcoming Wednesday. Please join us after the noon Lenten service or before the evening Lenten service. All are welcome.

First English Lutheran Church, 402 N 3rd Avenue
Wausau, WI. 54401

- **Lenten Services:** Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., beginning March 5, 2025
- **Maundy Thursday:** 6:00 p.m. with Holy Communion
- **Palm Sunday:** 9:00 a.m.
- **Good Friday:** 1:15 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday:** 2 services, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion

The Men's Discussion Group meets Thursdays at 7:30 am, in the Koinonia room. New participants are always welcome.

Strong Bones Senior Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday in the old Nursery at 10:30 am. The class is open to anyone wishing to improve balance and maintain strength to prevent falls. New faces are happily welcome.

Food Pantry Donations for the Neighbors' Place

Place your items on the black cart next to the pew near the Gathering Room and they will be delivered to the Neighbors' Place.

March 25, 2025, at 7:30pm: Americans With No Address Documentary Screening.

In partnership with Community Partners Campus, Bridge Street Mission, and the Wausau Police Department, The Grand Theater is proud to host a screening of **Americans With No Address**, a 90-minute documentary that investigates the homelessness crisis in America and captures the untold stories of those experiencing homelessness while at the same time trying to find answers to the problem. You can get your tickets here:

<https://tickets.grandtheater.org/4157>

Monday, March 31, 2025, 6pm: I wanted to personally invite you to a community meeting at **St. Stephens Lutheran Church** to discuss how we as congregations can assist Tracy R in her role with the Wausau PD and getting people into permanent housing (We will be meeting downstairs at SSLC). This is open to all congregations in hopes that we can collaborate with her and make a difference in the community one person at a time. Please bring any questions that you may have for Tracy in regard to the homeless situation and how we can better assist her. – From Shauna

☒ The Marty Bus is in desperate need of blankets/sleeping bags, tarps and backpacks.

40 Days 40 Items

In observance of the Lenten Season, many people choose to “give up” something they enjoy as they enter a period of reflection. An alternative to or perhaps in addition to this observance is to “take on” something new.

You can collect an item for each day of Lent—40 days yields 40 much-needed items in our community for many organizations. You will make a profound impact on your community while you are reflecting on your life and making personal changes.

Please consider contributing the following shelf stable food to your local food bank, clothing or hygiene items to those that need it. You can bring these items to church and place them in the appropriate donation location, and we will sort and distribute at the end. Items collected will then be distributed amongst Neighbors Place, The Marty Bus, Women’s Community and Community Clothing Closet.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Peanut Butter | 2. Socks |
| 3. Canned Meal with Pop Tops | 4. Canned Chicken/Tuna |
| 5. Pasta | 6. Spaghetti Sauce |
| 7. Cereal | 8. T-Shirts |
| 9. Canned Vegetables | 10. Canned Fruit |
| 11. Oatmeal | 12. Applesauce |
| 13. Pants | 14. Spices/Sauces |
| 15. Jelly | 16. Juice/Juice Boxes |
| 17. Flour, Sugar or Oil | 18. Sweatshirts |
| 19. Side Dishes | 20. Soup |
| 21. Popcorn/ Snacks | 22. Hamburger Helper |
| 23. New Tarps | 24. Baked Beans |
| 25. Granola Bars/Protein Bars/Pop Tarts | 26. Water |
| 27. Laundry Soap | 28. Toilet Paper |
| 29. New Underwear/Boxers | 30. Instant Mashed Potatoes |
| 31. Microwave Meals | 32. Crackers [i.e. Saltine or “Ritz”] |
| 33. Cake Mix with Frosting | 34. Walking Shoes without holes |
| 35. Individual Drink Mixes ex. Propel | 36. Tooth brush/Toothpaste |
| 37. Paper Towel | 38. Bath Soap |
| 39. Shampoo/Conditioner | 40. Deodorant |

Please bring your donations to any of the following four church locations: St. Stephens, Good Shepherd, Pilgrim, or Immanuel Lutheran Church. If you have questions feel free to reach out to Shauna Robinson, 608-514-4504, nutband@gmail.com