

Sunday, November 15th 2026
24th Sunday after Pentecost. Year A
9:00 a.m.

St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church

Reverend Maggie Westaby
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ELCA

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Office Hours:
Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
or by appointment

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In a world filled with uncertainty, we are called to live as children of light. Yet too often, fear holds us captive, and we lose sight of the hope God has placed within us. Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us confess our sins.

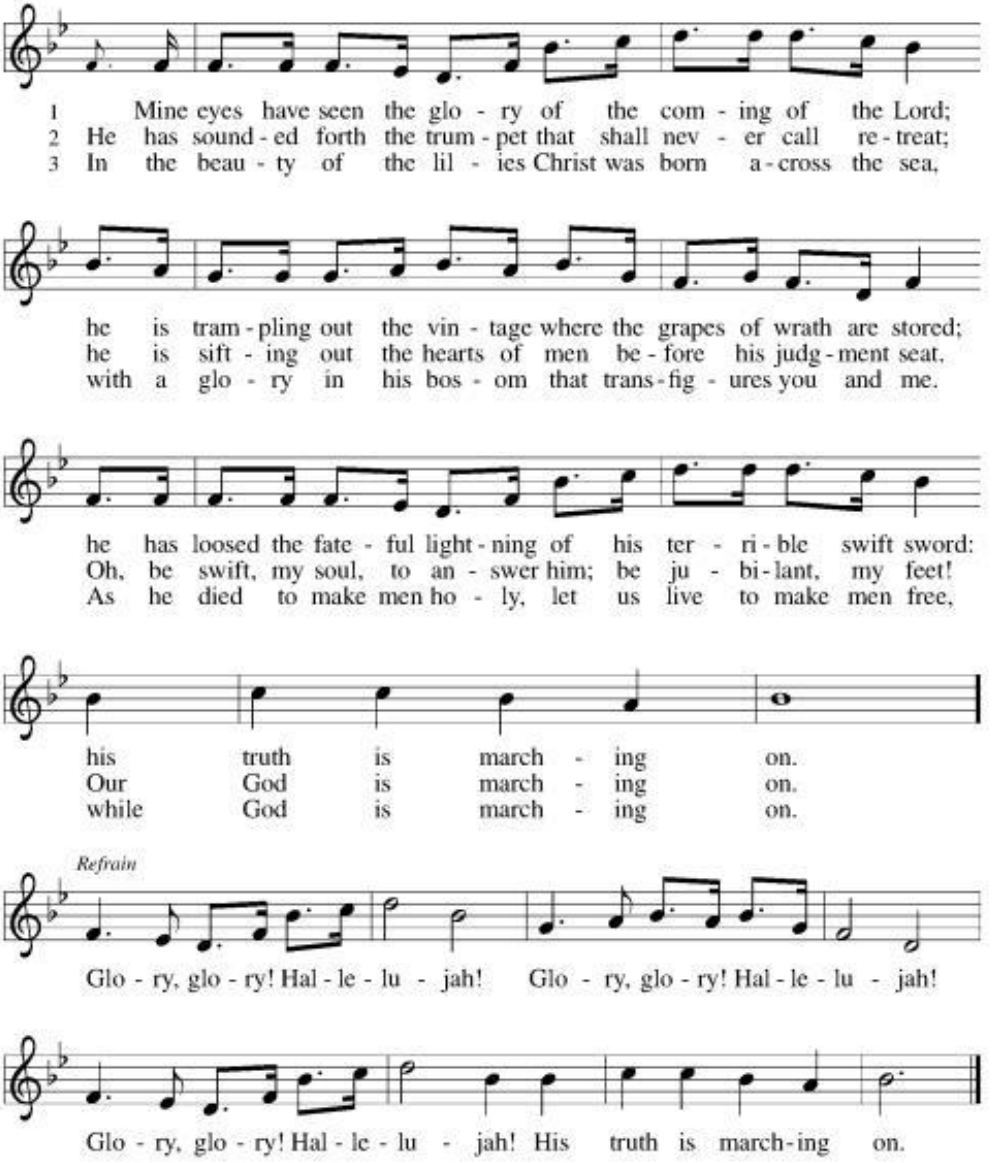
Merciful and loving God, you have entrusted us with the gifts of your creation, the promise of your presence, and the calling to love our neighbors. Yet we confess that we have not always lived as people of hope. We have allowed fear to silence our courage, comfort to dull our compassion, and uncertainty to keep us from acting. We have buried our gifts rather than sharing them, and forgotten that every day is an opportunity to serve you. Forgive us, renew our hearts, and awaken us to the work of your kingdom. Teach us to live generously, love boldly, and trust deeply in your grace. Amen.

Hear the good news: In Christ, fear does not have the final word, and our failures do not define us. By God's boundless grace, your sins are forgiven. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, you are freed from the burdens of yesterday and empowered to live as children of light today. Rise in hope, walk in love, and share the gifts God has entrusted to you.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910
Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,
You are our dwelling place from generation to generation. In a world where fear and uncertainty so often overshadow hope, awaken us to the light of your presence. Remind us that we are invited to share in your work. Give us courage when fear holds us back, and open our hearts to the joy that finds us even in uncertain times. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

READING: Isaiah 55:10-12

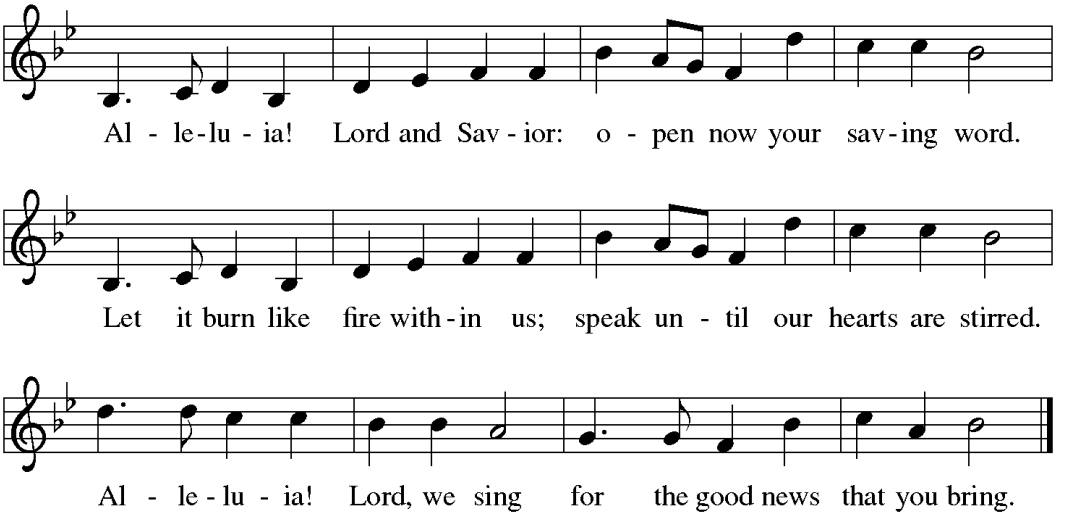
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God

Psalm 90:1-8,12

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;
you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.
For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God

READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14–30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his owner's money.

After a long time the owner of those servants came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Sir, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His owner said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; come and share in my joy!'

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Sir, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His owner said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; come and share in my joy!'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Sir, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, have what is yours.' But his owner replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless servant, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' " The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY
We Are Called (ELW 720) – NO DOWNLOADS AVAILABLE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Responding to "Hear us, O God," with **"Your mercy is great."**

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
Everything we have is a gift from God, entrusted to our care for a time. And so our offering is one way we tend what God has given. Let us give with grateful and generous hearts.

Scan to Donate to St. John's

GIVE THANKS
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

OFFERING PRAYER
Generous God,
All that we have and all that we are comes from you. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and love. Help us to share generously, care for one another, and use the time and resources you have entrusted to us to bring hope, compassion, and healing to the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

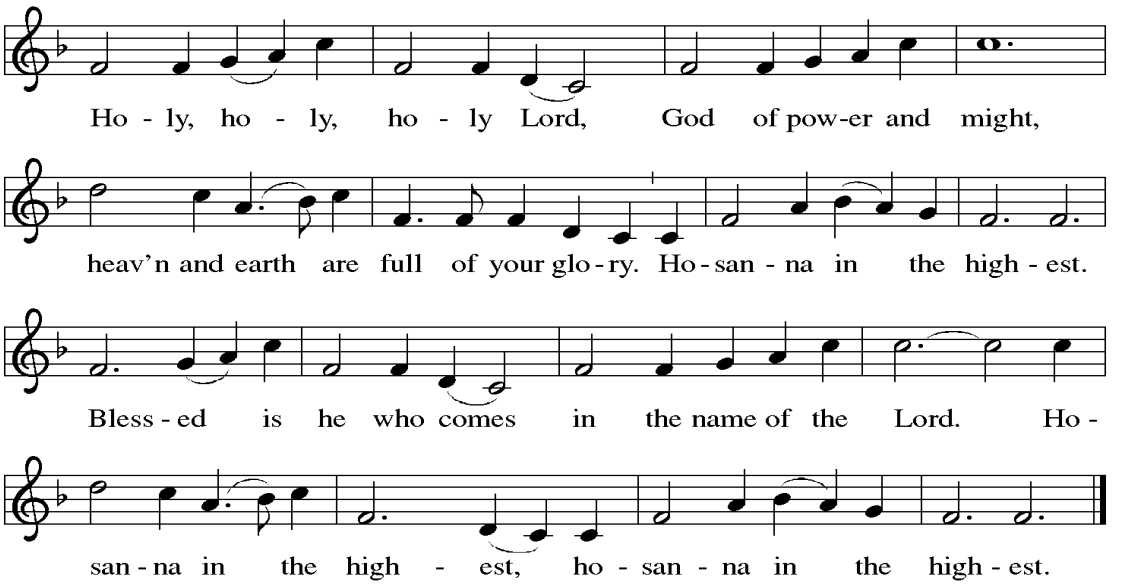
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



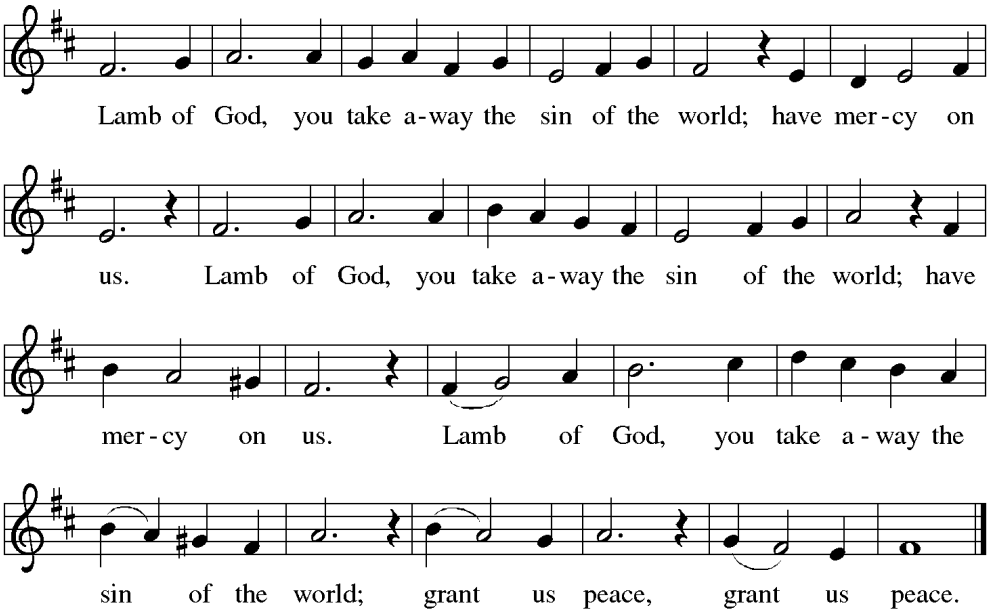
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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 & ever. Amen.

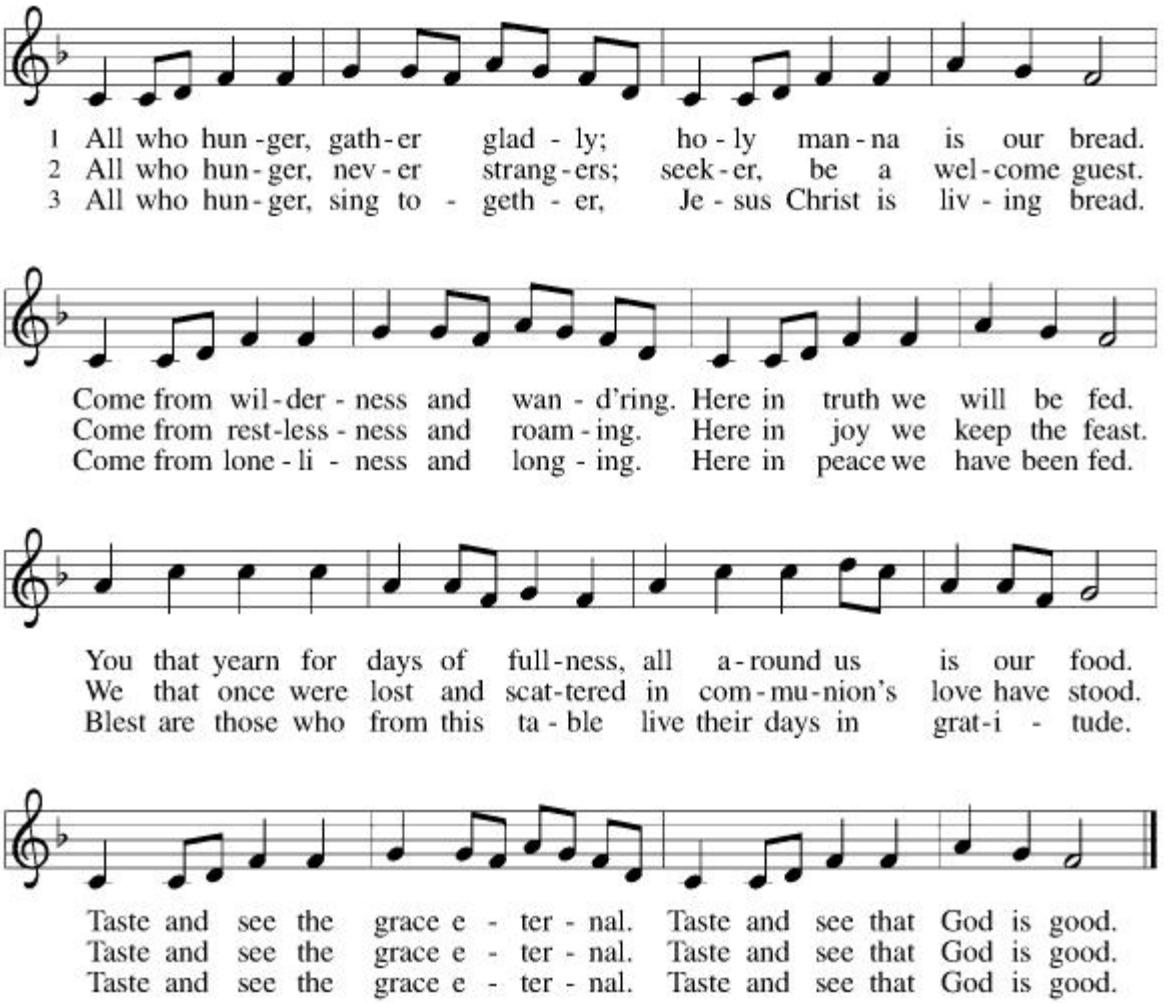
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to this table, not because you have done enough, given enough, or been faithful enough, but because God's grace is more than enough. Come with your fears about tomorrow, your regrets about yesterday, and your hopes for what might be. Here, Christ meets us in bread and wine, offering us joy and the promise of new life. Come, be nourished by grace, strengthened in faith, and sent to share God's joy with the world.



COMMUNION HYMNS

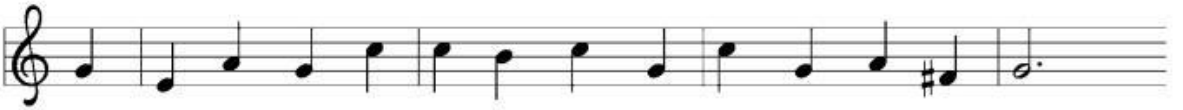
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825
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O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: St. Anne, William Croft, 1678–1727

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,

We give you thanks for this meal of grace, where you have nourished us with your love and reminded us that we do not walk this journey alone. Strengthen us to bear one another's burdens, to share hope when another's light grows dim, and to recognize your presence in the world around us. Send us forth to make the most of the time we have been given. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

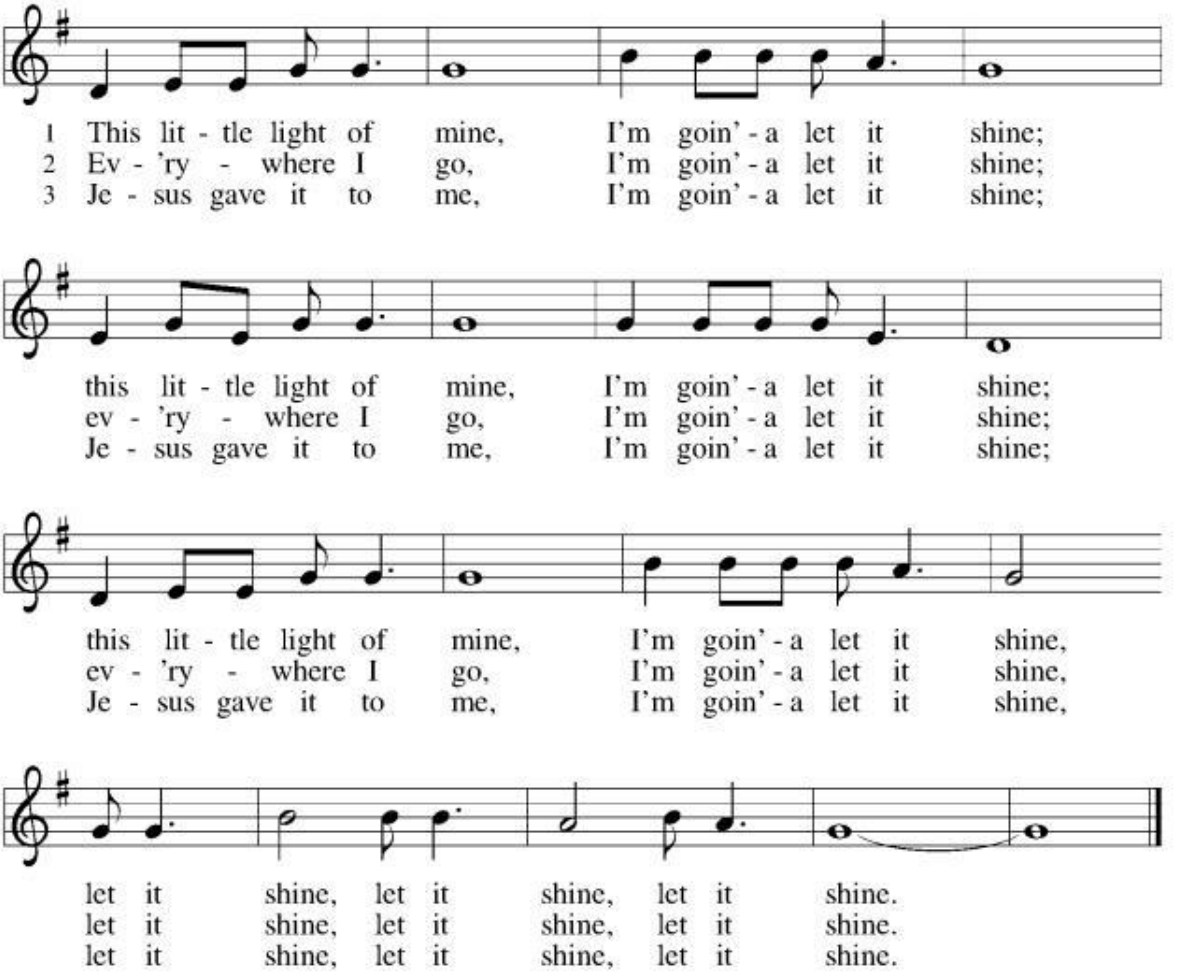
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God, who has entrusted you with the extraordinary gift of being part of God's kingdom, remind you that you are enough, just as you are.
May Christ give you courage when fear holds you back, and remind you that you do not walk alone.
And may the Holy Spirit surprise you with joy as you discover all the ways God is already at work in this world. And the incredible gift that you get to be part of it.
In the name of the Father ☩ Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine



Text: African American spiritual
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**

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Welcome to all! *Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones.*

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John Immanuel and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex.
Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ's Table.

Reminder! **If you are in need of Pastoral care, or if you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Maggie, please contact St. John Immanuel (715) 675-6950**

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring **non-perishable grocery** items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Shopping Cart.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, November 22nd St. John Immanuel Pie Auction Calling all pie lovers and bakers!! Do you need that special treat for Thanksgiving Day? Then this is the day for you. The pie auction will be held during Fellowship after worship. Bring a pie, buy a pie, or just plain old donate one for Fellowship! All proceeds will go to *Share Your Holidays.*

Tuesday, November 24th Thanksgiving Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a service of gratitude and Holy Communion.

Saturday, November 28th at 10 am – We will be decorating the Narthex and sanctuary for Christmas. All are welcome to come join and help out decorate our beautiful church. We will also be decorating the tree **Sunday the 29th** after worship.

Monday, November 30th at 6:30 p.m. the Book Club will discuss *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston*

Tuesday, December 8th at 5:45 p.m. Calling all ladies! The Sisterhood Gathering is right around the corner. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex with additional details.

Sunday, December 13th Noisy offering! Bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊). This noisy offering will go to: "**Youth Gathering** – *We're raising money to support our youth programs, events, and activities. Thank you for helping our youth grow in faith!*" Noisy offering will be the 2nd Sunday of the month. Money will be donated quarterly.

Sunday, December 13th 1:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Bowling At Days Bowl-A-Dome. Pizza and soda provided!

Monday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m. the Adult Study will discuss Acts 10 & 11

Thursday, December 17th Candlelit Shepherds Meal Doors open at 5:00 p.m. ***Dinner starts at 5:30***. Join us in a simple Shepherds Meal of soup, bread, dried fruit, nuts and cheeses by candlelight. You are invited to bring wine to share with your brothers and sisters in Christ. After our meal, we will move into the sanctuary where we will watch "Journey to Bethlehem," a 2023 "live-action Christmas musical adventure... that weaves classic Christmas melodies with humor, faith and new pop songs in a retelling of the greatest story ever told." $10/participant paid that evening. Sign-up in the narthex. *This is intended for adults and older/mature children.*

Sunday, December 20th Worship is at 10:00 a.m. Join us for our Children's Christmas Program! Following worship, enjoy our Winter Market Bake Sale, complete with a Hot Chocolate Bar and a Mimosa Bar! Want to help make this festive event a success? Stop by the narthex for more information and to sign up to donate baked goods or ingredients. We look forward to celebrating the season with you!

Monday, December 21st at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, and for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time.

Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve Worship! Worship services will be held at 2:30 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

2nd Year Confirmation Food Drive! The 2nd year confirmation students want to help the people in need by starting a food drive. They are looking for non-perishable items, and no expired food please. Items can be placed into the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall. Food will be distributed to local food banks.

Parking Lot Update: Please see the minutes located in the Narthex.

Do you like Texas Roadhouse? Enjoy a meal on a Sunday and earn money back to St. John Immanuel! Bring our church bulletin, turn it into your server, and St. John Immanuel will receive 10% back from your food sales!

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or on our website!
Help support St. John Immanuel with Kwik Trip gift cards!

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John Immanuel November 15th – November 22nd

Today – Sunday, November 15th

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / Sunday School – Joseph Helps His Family

Wednesday, November 18th

8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

Thursday, November 19th

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir

Sunday, November 22nd

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / Pie Auction / No Sunday School

Pastor Maggie out of the office Monday, November 16th – Monday, November 23rd

****Donations from Coffee hour will go towards a new refrigerator in our Fellowship Hall Kitchen.**