

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran!



Season of Creation 1: Forest Sunday
September 10, 2017 • 8:30 a.m.

Call to Worship

Christ, we come into your presence
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,
a planet pulsating with your presence,
a presence quivering in the forests,
a presence vibrating in the land,
a presence pulsating in the wilderness,
a presence shimmering in the rivers.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Call to Worship

God, reveal yourself to us in this place,
and show us your face in all creation.

**Holy! Holy! Holy! The whole earth is
filled with your glory.**



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Gathering Song – “Come Join the Dance of Trinity” *ELW 412*

- 1 Come, join the dance of Trinity,
before all worlds begun--
the interweaving of the Three,
the Father, Spirit, Son.
The universe of space and time
did not arise by chance,
but as the Three, in love and hope,
made room within their dance.



Gathering Song – “Come Join the Dance of Trinity” *ELW 412*

2 Come, see the face of Trinity,
newborn in Bethlehem;
then bloodied by a crown of thorns
outside Jerusalem.
The dance of Trinity is meant
for human flesh and bone;
when fear confines the dance in death,
God rolls away the stone.



Gathering Song – “Come Join the Dance of Trinity” *ELW 412*

3 Come, speak aloud of Trinity,
as wind and tongues of flame
set people free at Pentecost
to tell the Savior's name.
We know the yoke of sin and death,
our necks have worn it smooth;
go tell the world of weight and woe
that we are free to move!



Gathering Song – “Come Join the Dance of Trinity” *ELW 412*

4 Within the dance of Trinity,
before all worlds begun,
we sing the praises of the Three,
the Father, Spirit, Son.
Let voices rise and interweave,
by love and hope set free,
to shape in song this joy, this life:
the dance of Trinity.



Welcome

- Please take a moment to sign the ***Friendship Pads***.
- We will be celebrating ***holy communion***. All are welcome.



Living in God's Grace as a Neighbor to the World

Welcome

Please join in singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God,
of all the earth and sky
All things in this great universe
give glory to your name.**



Living in God's Grace as a Neighbor to the World

Welcome

**Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**



Living in God's Grace as a Neighbor to the World

Confession and Forgiveness

Please join in singing (ELW 739 v. 1-2):

**Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster--
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**

Confession and Forgiveness

On this Sabbath day, we remember the forests where we have worked and played.

O God, we thank you for the beauty of creation and the gift of trees.

We remember and confess how we have violated and polluted the forests in our garden planet.

Christ, crucified on a tree, hear our cry.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Confession and Forgiveness

We regret that we have forgotten Earth and treated this garden planet as a beast to be tamed and as a place to be ruled.

Christ, the hope of all creation, we lament our failings.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Confession and Forgiveness

We have ignored the distant sounds in the forest, the sound of chainsaws clearing for greed and gain, the sound of old forest giants falling forever, the sound of rare species breathing their last.

Christ, the source of all life, we are sorry. We are sorry.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Christ hears your confession from the cross and forgives your sins against the forest.

Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home. Help us to return home to Earth.

Christ says to us: I invite you to come home to Earth, and I call you to tend this planet with love.

Shalom! Shalom! We are coming home!



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print**.

Confession and Forgiveness

Please join in singing (ELW 739 v. 3-4):

**Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses, and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.**

**God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.**

Apostolic 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.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. God our creator,
whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the mysteries of the forest. Help us to empathize with your creatures who are suffering and to serve you as agents for healing your creation. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and restores all things in creation. Amen.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Lessons

1st Lesson – Genesis 2:4b-22

You are encouraged to practice the art of listening as the lessons are read - the way in which the gospel was originally passed on.

The lessons are printed in the Celebrate insert if you wish to follow along or refer to the lesson at a later time.



Psalm 139:13-16

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.**

Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* bold print.

Lessons

1st Lesson – Genesis 2:4b-22

Psalm 139:13-16

2nd Lesson – Acts 17:22-28

Gospel – John 3:1-16

You are encouraged to practice the art of listening as the lessons are read - the way in which the gospel was originally passed on.

The lessons are printed in the Celebrate insert if you wish to follow along or refer to the lesson at a later time.



Children's Time

All those young (and young at heart) are welcome to come forward for a special time with the Pastor



Sermon

“Trees as Fellow Creatures”

Pastor Jeff Schlesinger



Sermon – *Trees as Fellow Creatures*



Sermon – *Trees as Fellow Creatures*



Song of the Day – “O For a Thousand Trees”

sung to the tune of ELW 886

- 1 O for a thousand trees to sing
And join with us this day,
With ferns and frogs and butterflies:
A forest hymn of praise.



Song of the Day – “O For a Thousand Trees”

sung to the tune of ELW 886

2 Come celebrate with all the land,
Let species rare begin,
With geese and owls and cockatoo:
A choir of country kin.



Song of the Day – “O For a Thousand Trees”

sung to the tune of ELW 886

- 3 How can we hear creation groan,
The Outback cry in pain?
With desert dragons we rejoice
When Earth is born again.



Song of the Day – “O For a Thousand Trees”

sung to the tune of ELW 886

4 Let ev'ry stream and river flow
In song toward the sea;
With whale, and seal and albatross
We thank God we are free!



Song of the Day – “O For a Thousand Trees”

sung to the tune of ELW 886

5 O for a thousand trees to sing
And join with us this day,
With ferns and frogs and butterflies:
A forest hymn of praise.



Season of Creation Creed

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things. We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with all creatures. We believe every creature joins us in praising God. We see many suffer with Earth because of human crimes against creation.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Season of Creation Creed

We believe that God became incarnate as a part of Earth, Jesus Christ, that he lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation. We believe that the risen Jesus Christ fills the whole creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all things.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Season of Creation Creed

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with every suffering creature, and waits with us for the rebirth of the whole creation. We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation, reconciled, restored, and renewed.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print**.

Immanuel Lutheran Prayer Concerns



- Members – **Cindy Schlesinger, Elaine Zimmerman, Hal Schlesinger, Fountain Neal**
- Friends & Family – **Jenn Adams** (*Kim Ganz's cousin*); **Will Ruppert** (*Connie Schlesinger's Dad*); **Ron Yenerich** (*Connie Williams' brother*); **Hannah York** (*LuAnn Kromm's niece*) **Robert Hornung** (*LuAnn Kromm's brother*)
- *Those dealing with the effects of Hurricane Harvey.*
- Our Leaders - *ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clements; Immanuel/First Pastor Jeff Schlesinger*

Are there additional prayer requests?

Prayers of Intercession

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God,
your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

Amen.

Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you
always.

And also with you.

*Please turn to those around you and
share a sign of God's peace.*



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Offering

*We respond to God's grace by offering what God has first given us so that the good news of Jesus may continue to be proclaimed through the ministries of Immanuel Lutheran Church. **Thank you** for your generous response.*

*The **noisy offering** during this Season of Creation will be given to Franklin Creek Conservation Association, which cares for the forests, creek and land in and around Franklin Creek State Natural Area outside of Franklin Grove, IL.*



Offering Song – *For the Beauty of the Earth* (ELW 879 v. 1-2)

Please join in singing:

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.



Offering Song – *For the Beauty of the Earth* (ELW 879 v. 1-2)

Please join in singing:

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.



Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God our creator,
**through your love you have given
us these gifts to share. Accept our
offerings as an expression of our
thanksgiving and as a sign of our
concern for those in need, including
all our fellow creatures on planet
Earth. Amen.**



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Communion

The Creator be with you and all creation.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to our Creator.

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven
and earth.

**It is right to join every creature in
praising God.**



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Communion

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars, and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth, and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

You chose human beings to be your servants on Earth, to care for our garden home; you suffered when they desecrated the Earth and its waters and lands.

Your Spirit was the life impulse in all things, restoring the broken and healing the wounded, groaning in anticipation of a new creation, stirring with new life born of water and the Spirit.

Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print**.

Communion

You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die, and rise from the dead to redeem humankind, to restore creation, and to reconcile all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living power in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea and air; filling every element and place; filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, saints and sinners, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea, and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us, singing:

Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print**.

Communion *to the tune of “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” – ELW 886*

Please join in singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God,
of all the earth and sky
All things in this great universe
give glory to your name.**



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Communion

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.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print**.

Communion

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.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print**.

Communion

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.

Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* bold print.

Communion

The table is set. The gifts are ready. Come and receive God's grace.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print**.

Communion Distribution

*As we receive the bread and cup today,
we receive grace upon grace from
Jesus: forgiveness, new life and
salvation.*

*Come and hold your hands out and
receive God's goodness with the holy
word of thanks: "**Amen!**"*



Communion Blessing

Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds and through you to bring healing to Earth. In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. We thank you, O Christ,
**for the meal we have celebrated
with you, and we pray that through
your body and blood we may be
healed and become agents of
healing for Earth. Amen.**



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**

Announcements - *Upcoming Activities*

- **Sunday 9/10/17**
 - 8:30 a.m. – Worship @ Immanuel
 - 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School @ Immanuel
 - 10:30 a.m. – Worship @ First
 - 6:00 p.m. – LYO @ Immanuel
- **Thursday 9/14/17** – Council, 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday 9/15/17** - Bible Study, 9 a.m. @ Immanuel
- **Saturday 9/16/17** – NICE Volunteer, 8:00 a.m.
- **Sunday 9/17/17**
 - 8:30 a.m. – Worship @ Immanuel
 - 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School @ Immanuel
 - 10:30 a.m. – Worship @ First
 - 6:30 p.m. – Confirmation @ Immanuel

Immanuel Lutheran Church



September 10, 2017

Announcements

*September is NICE
Month for Immanuel*

Please check your Saturday availability and volunteer to help with this important ministry.



Sign up sheet is in the overflow

**Wear Immanuel Anniversary
Shirt or “God’s Work Our Hands”
Shirt when you volunteer**

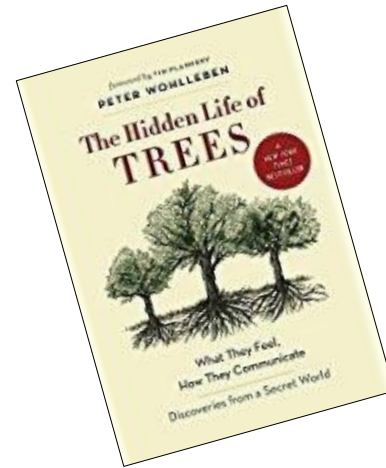
Immanuel Lutheran Church



September 10, 2017

Announcements

4th Sunday Readers



Sign up today to order the new book they will be discussing in September.

Check bulletin and newsletter for details.

Immanuel Lutheran Church



September 10, 2017

Announcements



Get Out and Shoot Some Pictures!

Don't forget to submit pictures for
September's "Season of Creation"!

9/10 – Forest Sunday

- *Trees, forest critters, woodland scenes – go for a hike and take a picture or two*

9/17 – Land Sunday

- *A bean sprouting in spring, a seagull rummaging in the sand – what picture can illustrate the value of the ground?*

9/24 – Wilderness Sunday

- *Deserts, rain forests, tundra - not lifeless places, but people-less places*

10/1 – River Sunday

- *Find that flowing water in all its forms with all its uses*

Immanuel Lutheran Church



September 10, 2017

Announcements

Singing Bird Chautauqua 2017 Presents

The Forest,
the Trees,
& the Autumn Leaves

October 15, 2017

12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Head Out to the Franklin Creek State Natural Area for this fun filled day of drama, stories, art, music, learning, nature and food.

Check out the poster on bulletin board for details

Benediction

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth, the pulsing of Christ through Earth, and the dream of the Spirit that all things will be reconciled and renewed; in the name of the Father, ✝ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Sending Song – “Beautiful Savior” *ELW 838*

1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.



Sending Song – “Beautiful Savior” *ELW 838*

2 Fair are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.



Sending Song – “Beautiful Savior” *ELW 838*

3 Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.



Sending Song – “Beautiful Savior” *ELW 838*

4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!



Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!



Worship leader reads regular print, *congregation responds with* **bold print.**