

March 15, 2020

**Confirmation Sunday**

Organist: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Steve Goodwin

Acolyte: Mason Goodwin

God's  
own child  
I gladly SAY it!



1449 34th St. NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
[winterhavenlutheran.org](http://winterhavenlutheran.org)

Sam Rodebaugh, Pastor (414) 534-7279  
Neil Bernthal, Principal (863) 967-5145  
Megan Goodwin, Teacher (651) 795-9799

## PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

*Psalm 25:1-8*

<sup>1</sup> Teach To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. <sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. <sup>3</sup> Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. <sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. <sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. <sup>6</sup> Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. <sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! <sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

## ✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

### OPENING PRAYER

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

**HYMN: WS #751**

**“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”**

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

**C** Amen!

## ✠ Examination of the Confirmands – on the Trinity ✠

### CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION:

*We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

## ✠ Examination of the Confirmands – on the Confession of Sins ✠

**P** I ask all of you before God, is this your confession that you repent of your sins, believe in your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and purpose by the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful lives? Declare so by saying: *Yes, with the help of God.*

**C** Yes, with the help of God.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of God's Word, announce the grace of God unto you. In the stead of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by His command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## ✠ Examination of the Confirmands – on God the Son ✠

### The Gloria Patri

*Latin for “Glory to the Father”*

**P** Having confessed our sins and received absolution and forgiveness from God, we sing songs of praise to the Holy Trinity, in the form of the Gloria Patri.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,  
 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,  
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.  
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.  
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

## ✠ Examination of the Confirmands – on God the Father ✠

Children of Immanuel Sing

“He Saved Us All”

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, You have entrusted to Your people the task of teaching all nations. Enlighten with the wisdom of Your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn that the joyous truth of the Gospel may be known in every generation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**G** Amen.

## ✠ Examination of the Confirmands – on Prayer ✠

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Jesus has graciously taught His disciples how to pray, inviting us to pray and promising to hear us. Let us therefore rise and raise our voices to our Savior in the Lord's Prayer, which you can find printed on the next page.

**☒ 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.**

### **✠ Examination of the Confirmands – on The Lord’s Prayer ✠**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING – 2 Samuel 22:1-7** And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. <sup>2</sup> He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, <sup>3</sup> my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. <sup>4</sup> I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. <sup>5</sup> "For the waves of death encompassed me, the torrents of destruction assailed me; <sup>6</sup> the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. <sup>7</sup> "In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears.

**GOSPEL READING – John 8:43-51** Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. <sup>46</sup> Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? <sup>47</sup> Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God." <sup>48</sup> The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" <sup>49</sup> Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup> Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."

### **✠ Examination of the Confirmands – on The Word of God ✠**

**☐ Besides our speaking to God in prayers and praises, God speaks to us through His Holy Word. In 2 Timothy 3:16, Paul identifies all of God’s Word as being profitable for doctrine and instruction, and therefore this congregation is a confessional church which bases all of its teachings on the Word of God. Each Sunday, we speak to one another using the**

words of the Apostles', Nicene, or Athanasian Creed, so that we might announce to each other and to the world our conviction based on God's Word and our unity on the Scriptures. Let us then boldly confess our hope and faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*

*The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.*

**☩ 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.**

## ✠ Examination of the Confirmands – on God the Holy Spirit ✠

**HYMN: WS #776**

**“Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose You”**

**SERMON – Hebrews 10:19-25** Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

### **How to Stay “In Practice” with Your Faith**

**1. Be Bold. 2. Hang Tough. 3. Stir the Pot.**

## OFFERTORY

*In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.*

**☩ 🎵 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

**- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS -***Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:***OFFERING SONG****"I Am Jesus Little Lamb"**

- ☐ Both of our confirmands were baptized as infants and cannot remember their baptisms, and yet today they stand before you to confirm the faith into which they were baptized. But first, let us review what God tells us about baptism.

**✠ Examination of the Confirmands – on Baptism ✠**

- ☐ After these two young people become full members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in a few moments, they will be granted all the rights and privileges of membership in this congregation, including the right to receive the Lord's Supper. We are not celebrating the Sacrament of the Altar today, but let us also review what God tells us about the Lord's Supper.

**✠ Examination of the Confirmands – on The Lord's Supper ✠****The Rite of Confirmation****Ella Kathleen Bernthal**

**2 Timothy 3:15** "and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

**Grant Lee Ream**

**Revelation 2:10** "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

**CONFIRMATION PRAYER and the BENEDICTION:***The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- ☐ The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- ☑ **Amen!**

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re- flect Thy rays,  
 Δ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais - ing Thee, their sun a - bove.  
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di - vine:

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
 Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
 Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

## ✝ Announcements ✝

**Welcome!** And congratulations to Ella Bernthal and Grant Ream on their completion of their confirmation instruction and reception into full membership of Immanuel Lutheran Church. What a joy and privilege it is to have been able to take part in the instruction of such two fine Christian young people. Please continue to keep them in your prayers over the coming years! May the Lord bless you both!

The congregation is invited to join in the small luncheon after the conclusion of the service. I suggest washing your hands!

**Lent Began** a few weeks ago. To help you adequately prepare for our Savior's passion, we hold Wednesday night services for the 6 weeks of Lent. At 6:30 each Wednesday night, we will be meditatively reading the events of Holy Week, focusing in on what Christ did to win our salvation. Please take time out of your busy schedules and make time for your Lord's passion. Our Lenten theme this year is "Three Words of Truth."

### **Call to Living Savior Lutheran Church**

Dear members of Immanuel, Serving the Lord is an awesome responsibility He gives to each one of His dear children. I am always encouraged by so many Christians today whose life work reflects this labor of love for Christ. What a blessing it is to have the joyful opportunities the Lord provides for us to work in His kingdom every day. However, the challenge we face is finding how we can best serve Him.

That is why I am writing to you now. The Lord has given me the blessed opportunity to carefully consider two different calls. Late last Sunday I received the call from Living Savior Lutheran Church of Eden Prairie, MN to faithfully serve the Lord as their pastor. I pray for the Lord's guidance as to where the gifts I have been given can best be used.

As Paul encouraged the Ephesians, so now I also encourage both Immanuel and Living Savior, "Pray for me also." (Ephesians 6:19) Pray that the Lord would clearly give me an answer where I can best serve Him and His people.

My hope and prayer is that this call will give each of us the opportunity to reflect on the Lord's use of us in His kingdom. I encourage any of your thoughts and comments as I deliberate this call. May the Lord's will be done.

In Christ, Pastor Rodebaugh

### **Looking Ahead...**

- ✝ **Today:** Confirmation Luncheon
- ✝ **Today:** Auditing Committee
- ✝ **Today:** Board of Education
- ✝ **Today:** Elders Meeting
- ✝ **Mar. 18:** Lent Service 6:30 pm
- ✝ **Mar. 29:** Trustees and Council
- ✝ **Apr. 5:** Quarterly Voters Mtg.
- ✝ **Apr. 5:** Palm Sunday Worship with Communion and Fellowship Snack
- ✝ **Apr. 10:** Good Friday 7 pm
- ✝ **Apr. 12:** Easter Worship (No Orlando Service)
- ✝ **Apr. 12:** Easter Brunch 9 am

**CLC Call News** **Pastor Sam Rodebaugh**, Immanuel, Winter Haven, FL has been called by Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN. <> **Teacher Neil Bernthal**, Immanuel, Winter Haven, FL has returned the call to Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran, West Columbia, SC to be Principal and upper grades teacher. <> Teacher Joshua Ohlmann has returned the call extended to him by Redeemer, Cheyenne, WY to be their Principal/Teacher. <> Mrs. Sarah Ude, Middleton, WI has returned the call extended to her by Faith, Markesan, WI to be their upper grades teacher. <> Teacher and principal, Kirsten Gullerud, St. Stephen Lutheran School, Mountain View, CA, has asked for a peaceful release from her call as teacher and principal of St. Stephen Lutheran School to pursue a different path in Wisconsin. St. Stephen has now called Claire Abbas, Gethsemane, Spokane Valley, WA to be their teacher.

**Shut-in/Encouragement List** **Emily Kuehne** suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain when standing or walking. **Patti Meno** continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney/. transplant. **Bill Issitt III** remains mostly housebound due to poor health. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Crystal Shaw** has recently received a positive diagnosis and is awaiting more doctor analysis. **Bill Hartmann's** health is deteriorating. **Loye Issitt** is receiving regular dialysis. **Bob Doriot** is undergoing hip replacement surgery very soon.

**Last Week (3/15)** WH – 27 Orlando – 13 Wednesday Lent – 18

General = \$1,577 | Property Improvement = \$50 | Benevolence = \$25

**Total = \$1,652**

**March Usher:** Steve Goodwin

| **Cleaning (3/21):** Bernthal

| **Acolyte (3/22):** Grant B.



## What to Do with the Coronavirus?

### As Christians?

### As a Congregation?

In recent days, hearing the news, the warnings, and the growing numbers of those affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been inescapable.

The concerns surrounding the virus has prompted a shortage of several items in all our stores—either they're gone completely or the amount that can be purchased is limited (hand sanitizer, paper products, water).

## A Balanced Perspective

Having been bombarded with many different reports and statistics concerning this pandemic, a balanced perspective is necessary. As is the case with so many things, one can go to extremes that are polar opposite and both too far. On the one hand, it would be foolish to ignore the virus completely, take no heed to the cautions, and the instructions to be diligent in staying home when sick, washing hands, etc. On the other hand, to panic and to be paralyzed with fear is also unnecessary and in the extreme.

We've all heard the report that "regular" flu, which we may underestimate, is more deadly than the Coronavirus has been thus far. Seasonal flu and Coronavirus are similar in the fact that both are most dangerous to those with pre-existing health conditions. The current lack of a vaccine and anti-viral treatments for Coronavirus, coupled with its seemingly higher mortality rate, make it potentially more deadly. Yet, there are about forty-nine known recoveries so far in the United States and more than 74,500 recoveries worldwide.

None of this diminishes the seriousness of the Coronavirus, but it does give some perspective to balance the dramatic and most-unsettling reports.

## Child of God, Fear Not

Our faith in Christ Jesus does not immunize us from viruses, other sickness, disease, injury, or even death. It does immunize against eternal death, hopelessness, and fear.

When we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Deliver us from evil," we are asking God to keep evil of body and soul away from us. *"No evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent."* (Psalm 91:10)

If, according to God's gracious and wise will, He calls upon us to endure hardship, we pray that He will use those difficulties for our good and blessing—*"through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."* (Acts 14:22) *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8:28)

We are also praying that in the end God take us from this world of sickness and sorrow to Himself in Heaven—*"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom."* (2 Timothy 4:18)

A child of God's approach to the Coronavirus—and any other threat to our health and well-being—is to use the information and resources that God provides through doctors, scientists, and others to make informed decisions about our health. We have every reason to be “smart” about such resources and use them to be good stewards of the body and life God has given us. To be cavalier and foolish about such things in the face of clear danger would be tempting God. The Devil tried to lure Jesus into such a foolhardy approach when he tempted Jesus to jump from the pinnacle of the temple. Jesus replied, *“It is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”* (Matthew 4:7)

As we use the information at hand to reach decisions about our health and well-being—always and not just with the Coronavirus— we do so prayerfully, asking God to guide and bless those decisions. Beyond this, we pray for God's mighty protective and healing hand, and then go forward in our calling as we are able, confident of the Lord's blessing, and without fear.

Satan loves to promote fear and use it against us. He would love to see us seized by fear, led to doubt God and His love, and neglect God's Word out of disinterest and busy-ness prompted by fear. The solution is just the opposite. The grace of God and the confidence we have in Christ Jesus as our physician of body and soul, immunizes us against fear. It gives peace to our hearts and minds even as disease, trouble, and hardship spread.

This does not mean that fear won't still arise within us, but when it does, what we need is a booster shot—a booster shot provided through the Word of God and with burdens eased as we cast our cares upon Him in prayer (1 Peter 5:7).

*“Perfect love casts out fear”* (1 John 4:18). So when fear seeps into your mind and wells up within your heart, remember that God so loved you—with a perfect love—that He sent His only begotten Son that you might not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). And God *“who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”* (Romans 8:32)

## What We Are Doing?

Both the Federal and State government have encouraged public establishments (including churches) to take certain precautions to decrease the spread of the Coronavirus. Therefore, for the time being and for the immediate future, we will suspend

handshaking before and after the services (greeters, pastor, etc.) in order to eliminate that as a means of spreading sickness.

Yesterday, the pews were all washed and disinfected. Periodically doing this as well as other cleaning measures will help to keep the spread of sickness in check.

We would like everyone to be especially conscious of containing any spread of sickness (staying home if sick, helping children contain sneezes, drippy noses, sticky fingers, etc.)

If you find yourself unable to attend worship regularly—either because of your sickness or out of caution due to your susceptibility and/or added risk with respiratory illness, there are ways we can still serve you with the gospel—sermons/services online, private visits, etc. Please call Pastor Rodebaugh to request any of these (or other) options.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?*

*My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*

*He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.*

*Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.*

*The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

*The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.*

*The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*

**- Psalm 121**

## **Welcome!**

If you are curious about what we believe and teach... At your convenience the Pastor is ready to arrange free Bible instruction classes at your home or at church for you and your family so that you may be sure of eternal life.

Pastor Sam Rodebaugh - Call or text: (414)534-7279

Email: [sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com](mailto:sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com)