



"This is my beloved Son . . . Listen to Him!"

Transfiguration Sunday

February 12, 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church

A Church of the Lutheran Confession – CLC

1449 34th St. NW Winter Haven, Florida 33881

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Dear Friends,

By nature, humans would rather see God than hear Him.

After three years of “seeing” the glory of Jesus in His works, and even after confessing their faith in Him as the Son of God, they would not accept Jesus’ words concerning His death in Jerusalem! When the three leaders of the disciples saw Jesus’ glory on the Mount of Transfiguration, they wanted to bask in what they saw! But a cloud “overshadowed” them, and the Father’s voice cut them short, and said: *“This is My Beloved Son, . . . hear Him!”*

We all need this strong reminder from the Mount. So much prattling goes on in today’s churches as many want to “talk and walk” their religious excitement rather than to be still and *listen*. Human opinions and emotions are nothing compared to God’s Word; but many would rather *judge* the truth of God’s Word, than to humbly hear and heed it.

The Word of the only true and Living God must be heard in the churches and obeyed. When it is not, His life-creating promises becomes clouded and His saving work frustrated. As Martin Luther said: *“The promises of God make the church, not the church the promises of God.”*

This church and fellowship of Christians would not exist at all were it not for the Word and promises of God’s Son in Whom the Father is *“well-pleased.”* So, let us *listen* to Him also today as He speaks to us from His Word.

We welcome our guests! If you have need of anything during the service, ask our usher. As you leave today, please sign our guest book, and speak to the pastor if you wish to have **him visit you. You are always welcome among us!**

Please be sure your cell phones are turned

The Order of the Worship Service

Altar Prayer by the Chairman of the Board of Elders

Reading of the Transfiguration account In Matthew 17:1-8

Hymn: TLH # 135 – ‘Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here”

The Invocation:

P: We gather together in the Name of the Father, Who created us; and of the Son Who redeemed us; and of the Holy Spirit, Who sanctifies us.

C: Amen.

The Confession of Sins and Announcement of Forgiveness:

(Invitation)

P: Dearly Beloved, when the disciples on the Mount heard the mighty voice from the cloud, they trembled in fear because of their sins. But Jesus said, “Arise and do not be afraid!” Since He came into the world not to condemn us but to save us from our sins, He invites us to seek forgiveness in His Name.

(Confession)

All: Merciful Father in heaven, I confess with King David that since conception I have been a sinful human being. In countless ways I have sinned against You and deserve Your eternal condemnation. But your Son, in Whom You are “well-pleased,” has invited me to Your throne of grace. In His name alone, I beg Your mercy on me. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.

(Absolution)

P: “In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding.” *(Eph. 1:7-8)* And “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” *(1John 1:9)* Therefore, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven and your guilt removed for Jesus’ sake. May He give you strength to live according to your faith and His will. Amen.

C: Thanks be to God!

Hymn: TLH # 50:2 (printed below):

**Thanks we give and adoration for thy Gospel’s joyful sound.
May the fruits of Thy salvation In our hearts and lives abound;
Ever faithful, ever faithful to the Truth may we be found!**

The Salutation:

P: May our Lord be with you . . .

C: and also with you.

The Collect: *(A chief thought from the lessons and sermon text)*

P: O God, in the glorious Transfiguration of Your Only-

begotten Son, you have confirmed His identity as God from eternity. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You foretold the adoption of sons through the hearing of your Word. Now, by the gracious working of Your Spirit, finish the work You have begun in us that we may grow in faith's knowledge of Christ, be faithful witnesses of your Word to all mankind, and finally receive the eternal inheritance which You have promised through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Scripture Lessons . . .

Deuteronomy 18:15 (Moses foretells the coming of another prophet, who "like him," would be raised up by God "from their midst" and of their "brethren." And the people will or must "listen to him.")

Acts 20:26-32 (The Holy Spirit calls the "overseers" and "shepherds" of the flock to preach the "whole counsel of God.")

1Corinthians 2:1-5 (Paul's preaching of Christ among the Corinthians was "not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but

in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,” so that their faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.)

The Confession of Faith from the Apostolic Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the

Virgin Mary;

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, dead, and buried;

He descended into hell;

The third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,

and sits on the right hand of God the Father

Almighty;

From there He shall come to judge the living and

The dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;

The holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints;

The forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body;

And the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: WS # 781 – “Preach You the Word”

The Message from 1Corinthians 3:9 . . .

“For we are God’s fellow-workers.
You are God’s field, God’s building.”

Our *God* Is At Work To Save!

♪ Prayer: TLH # 493 – “Thou Who the Night in Prayer. . .”

The Gathering of the Thank-Offerings

The Lord’s Prayer In unison

The Rite of Installation

♪ Prayer: WS # 780 - “Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give.”

The Benediction:

P: Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: TLH # 283 - "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"



About Rob Sauers

Pastor Sauers was born November 27, 1979 in Pittston, PA, a small town just outside of Scranton. He graduated from Pittston Area High School in 1998 and received his Bachelor's Degree from Eastern University near Philadelphia in May of 2002. Pastor Sauers was a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and in September of 2002, he began attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO.

While at Concordia, he became increasingly concerned about the direction in which the LCMS was going. Pastor Sauers was concerned especially about their stand on church fellowship, concluding that the LCMS has an unscriptural position on this doctrine. As a result, he withdrew from the seminary in December of 2003.

Pastor Sauers first came in contact with the CLC in December 2005. While searching for an apartment in the St. Louis area, he drove past our church in Manchester, MO. He noticed "CLC" on the sign. After researching CLC website, he visited "Faith Lutheran Church," where he continued his study of the CLC with the aid of Pastor Todd Ohlmann. Convinced that the teachings and practice of the CLC are faithful to God's Word, he joined the congregation in 2006.

A year later, at the CLC 20's and 30's retreat, Pastor Sauers met his wife, Kate (nee Friedrichs). They were married May 16, 2009. In August of 2010, Kate and he moved to Eau Claire so that he could pursue the

pastoral ministry in the CLC. Kate took over as the girls' dorm supervisor at ILC, and Pastor Sauers began taking college level classes in preparation for seminary. After two years in college, he began seminary in the fall of 2012, graduating in May of 2015.

On June 21, 2015, Pastor Sauers' was ordained and installed into the pastoral ministry at Bethel Lutheran Church in Morris, MN, where he served for three years. He was installed as Pastor of Luther Memorial Church in Fond du Lac, WI on August 12, 2018.

Pastor and Kate were blessed with the birth of their son, Jacob, on December 10, 2017. They were again blessed with the birth of their daughter, Emma, on September 21, 2020. They are eagerly anticipating the birth of their third child due at the end of June.

Pastor Sauers writes: "I am excited for the opportunity to serve Immanuel-Winter Haven, and I look forward to the Lord's blessings on our work together."

- ✠ **Feb 12** 9:15am Bible Class
10:15am WH Installation
Service of Pastor Sauers –
Welcome meal for Pastor
Sauers and family after the
service
- ✠ **Feb. 19** 10:15am WH
service with Church Council
and Elder Meeting after

Midweek Lenten Worship The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. Lent has been observed by Christians for centuries as a time to prepare for the Savior's death and resurrection. This year, our theme is "Chronicles of the King."

Throughout this series, we will explore how the kings of Judah are a shadow of Christ, the King of kings who sits upon the throne of David, His Father, forever. We will see how the kings in Chronicles point us to Christ, who fulfills all the kingly promises that the kings of Judah were unable to realize in themselves. We hope you will make plans to join us for worship each Wednesday during the Lenten season at 6:30 pm. -Pastor Sauers

Pastor Sauers and his family would like to say a huge "Thank you" to everyone who has helped prepare for our arrival. All the work on the parsonage (it's beautiful!), gifts for our kids, an abundance

of food in our pantry and fridge, help unloading and unpacking — please know that your work has not gone unnoticed! We are overwhelmed by it all and are so grateful for your expressions of Christian love and kindness. We are excited to be here in Florida to serve the Lord with you!

Last Week: WH – 33 **Total Offering** = \$2986.25 |

Missions \$200 | ILC Sch. \$50 | Rent \$600 | Sign Fund \$50

Cleaner (2/18): Ream | **Acolyte (2/19):** Maxwell Kuehne

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; February 13 - February 18, '23

Mon John 11:20-27 After the death of Martha's brother Lazarus, Jesus not only tells her about the resurrection, but that He IS the resurrection. In Him is life (Jn1:4) and His word will bring Lazarus from the tomb. Martha hears His word and trusts His word as that of the Christ, the Son of God.

Tues Philippians 1:12-14 Paul is writing from prison in Rome. Still he rejoices that it has become obvious to many that he is not a criminal, but imprisoned because he proclaims the saving word of Christ. Thus more and more people are hearing that life-giving word, and others are emboldened to speak it, too.

Wed Philippians 1:15-18 Since people do not look down on Paul in prison, others are much more bold to speak the word of Christ, too. Although some of them are motivated by a selfish spirit that looks for personal gain while Paul is "out of the way," the apostle still rejoices that the life-giving word is preached.

Thurs Philippians 1:19-21 Paul is appreciative of the Philippians prayers for him, and confident of God's blessing, whether he

survives this imprisonment or not. If he lives, it will be to honor Christ and spread His word, and if he dies, it will be to see his Savior and rejoice.

Fri Amos 8:11-12 There is a worse famine than the lack of food or drink. The lack of God's word is a far greater tragedy, for that word can give life to people even after they have died (see Monday's reading). The prophet foretells a famine of this life-giving word for those who make themselves God's enemies.

Sat 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 To bring earthly food to people may be a matter of life and death, but to bring the life-giving word of Christ is a matter of eternal life and death. And the apostle's sufficiency for this work does not come from within himself, but from God, who has spoken to us by His Son, Jesus Christ (Hb1:2).