

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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May 18, 2025 † Easter 5



We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 148 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

<https://www.sslwest.org/worship.html>

Opening Hymn 482 This Joyful Eastertide

LSB 482



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the
3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill
slum - ber Till trump from east to west

Has sprung to life this mor - row:
My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:
Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -
ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934

Tune: Davids Psalmen, 1684, Amsterdam

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

G If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one

another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

P Let us pray...

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord...

"Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" LSB 811

I Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es To praise my
God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
joic - es, Would then pro-claim in grate - ful songs To all, wher -
ev - er I might be, What great things God has done for me.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658-1734; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862 Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray: O God, You form the minds of Your faithful people into a single will. Make us

love what You command and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 13:44-52 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. ⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ "For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.' " ⁴⁸ Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-7 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from Revelation 21:1-7

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words

are true and faithful." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

W.S. p. 15

C 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 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 sits 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.

Hymn of the Day: 648 Glorious Things of You Are Spoken (LSB 648)



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, See the cloud and
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God; He whose word can - not be bro - ken Formed you
ter - nal love, Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters And all
fire ap - pear For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, Show - ing
mem - ber am, Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will



for His own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found - ed,
fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er
that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner
glo - ry in Your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain plea - sures,



What can shake your sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's
Ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace, which like the
Light by night and shade by day, Safe they feed up -
All their boast - ed pomp and show; Sol - id joys and



walls sur - round - ed, You may smile at all your foes.
Lord, the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.
on the man - na Which God gives them on their way.
last - ing trea - sures None but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Tune: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732–1809

Text and tune: Public domain

(NKJV)

Sermon Text: John 13:31-35 ³¹ So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. ³² "If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. ³³ "Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. ³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Sermon Theme: Jesus Gives Us the New Command to Love Each Other.

Offertory

LSB 956



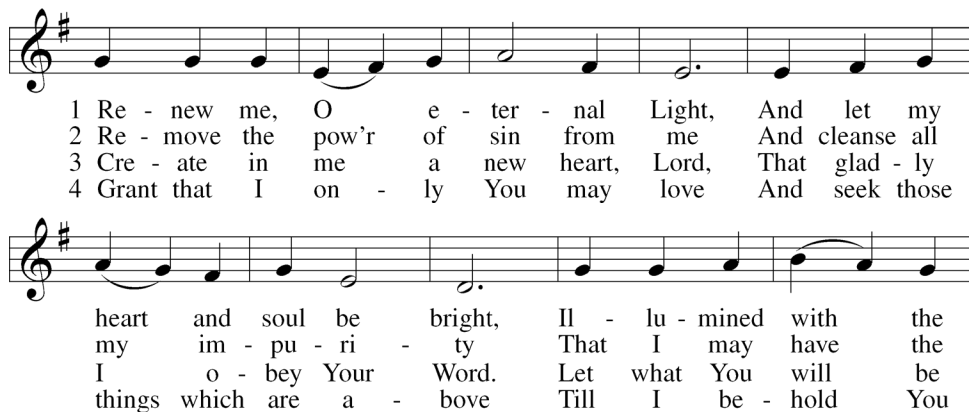
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Public domain

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Sermon Hymn: 649 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

(LSB 649)



1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, And let my
2 Re - move the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all
3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, That glad - ly
4 Grant that I on - ly You may love And seek those
heart and soul be bright, Il - lu - mined with the
my im - pu - ri - ty That I may have the
I o - bey Your Word. Let what You will be
things which are a - bove Till I be - hold You



light of grace That is - sues from Your ho - ly face.
 strength and will Temp - ta - tions of the flesh to still.
 my de - sire, And with new life my soul in - spire.
 face to face, O Light e - ter - nal, through Your grace.

Text: Johann Friedrich Ruopp, 1672–1708; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: As hymnodus sacer, 1625, Leipzig

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

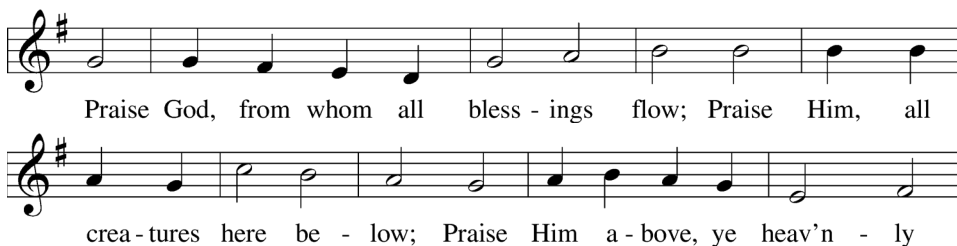
- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you.
 The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

The Doxology

LSB 805





host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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Closing Hymn: 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

(LSB 924)



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text (sts. 1–2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**
5/18/25 **11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting**
 11:00 a.m. Women's Auxiliary Meeting
Sunday **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**
5/25/25

SSLS Run-a-Thon was held last Friday. The event was well organized and the students gave it their all in participating. \$125.00 was raised and will go toward helping with the expenses of the Travelling Vacation Bible School.

St. Stephen Treasury Update As of May 3, 2025 the net balance was +\$1,696.79. The bank balance was \$244,414.36 and the Schwab investment account had \$100,668.33.

Concluding Activities at Immanuel: Friday, May 23, will be the final day of classes at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary. In giving the LORD God glory for the various achievements by students and student groups, Class Day will be held at 2:30 pm. The band will play during this event. At 7:00 pm there will be a concert of sacred music sung by the Concert Choir and Tour Choir at Messiah Lutheran Church. (Please note that both Class Day and the choir concert are beginning 30 minutes earlier than usual.) On Saturday, May 24, the concluding graduation worship service will take place at 10 am at the ILC Fieldhouse. We pray that the students will take what they have learned from the Word of God and treasure the Gospel by expressing their gratitude to the LORD Immanuel in their daily walk with Him.

CLC Financial Report - April 2025

Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2024	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 10 Months	Balance 4/30/2025
General Fund	0	971,532	1,016,027	1,094,150	(44,495)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	1,508,383	1,388,124	1,436,750	120,259
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (ILF)	110,979	43,520	61,244		93,255
ILC Building Projects	1,560,282	340,953	1,842		1,899,393
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	120,784	236,051	182,622		174,213
Kinship	169,884	168,594	147,119		191,359
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,684,208	382,368	264,753		2,801,823
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	117,317	78,445	190,187		5,575
EduK8 Fund	47,692	22,787	3,500		66,979
Reserve Fund	79,964	80,292	0		160,256
Auxiliary Funds Totals	\$4,891,110	\$1,353,010	\$851,267		\$5,392,853

General Fund – You will notice that we are continuing to run a year-to-date deficit in our General Fund. We have not met our budget for the past several years and while we have been blessed to have a reserve fund that has covered our shortfall, we cannot continue to deficit spend. With only about a month remaining in our fiscal year ending with June, it will be beneficial for each of us to prayerfully consider what we can do to support the General Fund. May our Gracious Lord bless our humble efforts.

ILC Operations - While ILC Operations is subsidized by the General Fund and currently has a balance of about \$120,000, based on past history, that balance will likely be eliminated by the end of the year since there is very little revenue in the month of June. Last year, for example, June had a deficit of \$124,000.

ILC Building Projects – Year-to-date contributions have been about \$260,000. The remaining year-to-date revenue of around \$80,000 is from increases in the market value of the investments in this fund.

Church Extension Fund – Year to date revenue consists of payments received of about \$246,000 from congregations on the loans they owe the CLC, just over \$135,000 of increases in the market value of the investments and just over \$1,000 of contributions to the fund.

Other Auxiliary Funds – The activity in the other funds in the table above is similar to the activity in the same period a year ago.

Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

