



IMMANUEL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

transforming tradition

The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in a field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

- Matthew 13:31-32

*I don't measure America by its achievement
but by its potential.*

- Shirley Chisholm

*Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap,
but by the seeds you plant.*

- Robert Louis Stevenson

*This Woman was full of Good Works
and Almsdeeds which she did.*

- Tabitha window inscription

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

MORNING WORSHIP

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 28, 2025

Ten O' Clock

PRELUDE Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne *Buxtehude*

Please enjoy the prelude as a time of silent preparation for worship.

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP Elder Lindsey McKee

Leader: In Christ, we become part of a new community.

People: Those who are near and those far away now come together in the Lord.

Leader: Christ has broken down the dividing walls, making us one.

People: Therefore we are no longer strangers, but citizens and equal parts of God's family.

Leader: Together let us worship our gracious God!

* HYMN 65 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah *Cwm Rhondda*

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION The Rev. Robert Ater

Leader: Even though we continually turn away from God, the Lord is eager to forgive. Trusting in the promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

All: Gracious God, you know our sin. We have squandered the gifts you have given us; we have failed to forgive our debtors as you have forgiven us. We have not shared with the poor, those in need, those anxious for tomorrow. We are too shrewd in seeking wealth and too foolish in following your way.

Forgive us our sins, O Lord, for your name's sake. Make us generous disciples of your word, your gospel, your justice, and your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Ater

* *Stand as you are able.*

* THE PEACE

*Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
let us forgive one another.*

All: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

* RESPONSE #39 (*congregation sings*)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Larson & Elder McKee

THE SCRIPTURES Ruth 2:8-13

(OT 242)

John 20:11-18

(NT 114)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN 324 For All the Faithful Women

Nyland

(choir women sing vs. 1-2, congregation sings vs. 3-4)

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Larson

ANTHEM

Everything You Do

Buxtehude

*Everything you do, by word of mouth and by action, let it honor the name of Jesus,
And thank God, give thanks to God and the Father by him.*

Pasquale Laurino, violin

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Ater

THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OFFERINGS

*Please sign the red Friendship Folder and greet one another following the service.
Online worshipers please indicate your presence using the link on the website.*

OFFERTORY

Prelude in g minor

Buxtehude

*Children, youth, and teachers gather at the font for prayer
before proceeding to Church School in The Peaceable Kingdom on the lower level.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

* DOXOLOGY (*the congregation sings*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

THE SCRIPTURES Acts 9:36-42

(NT 128)

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"A Window to Faith"

Rev. Dr. Randall Bush

* HYMN 231 Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

Suo Gan

(Choir sings vs. 1, Congregation sings vs. 2-3)

* BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

Fugue in g minor

Buxtehude

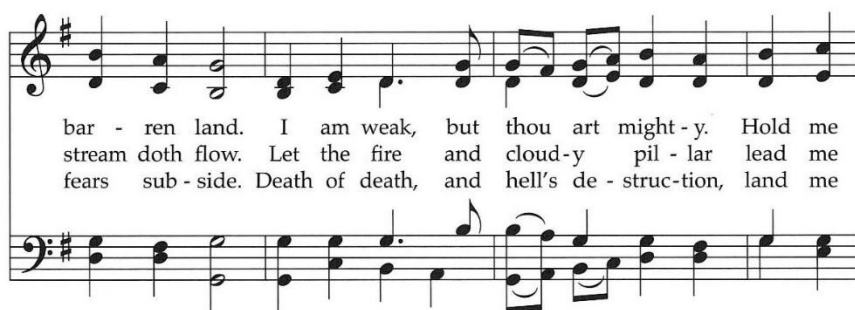
*The flowers are given to the glory of God
in memory of Betty Anne Jensen by the Harris/Jensen family.*

After the postlude, an elder will be at the font to hear prayer requests.

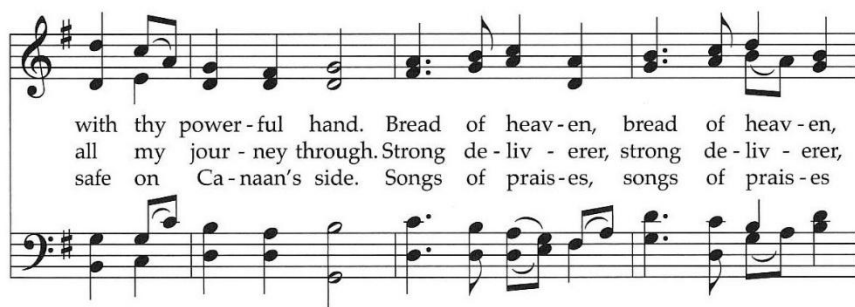
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

324 For All the Faithful Women

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C)
 Eb Cm7 Ab Bb Eb

1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in
 2 We praise your name for Mir - iam, who sang tri -
 3 We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, who toiled with
 4 Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas, who served the

(G) (C) (Am7) (Dm) (G)
 Bb Eb Cm7 Fm Bb

days of old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to
 um - phant - ly while Pha - raoh's vaunt - ed ar - my lay
 pot and pan while Mar - y sat in si - lence to
 sick and poor. Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her

(C) (G7) (C) (Am)
 Eb Bb7 Eb Cm

all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and
 drowned be - neath the sea; for Ruth, who left her
 hear the word a - gain. We praise the oth - er
 heart an o - pen door. O God, for saints and

(D) (G) (F) (G) (C)
 F Bb Ab Bb Eb

glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their
 home - land and ven - tured forth in faith, who pledged to
 Mar - y, who has - tened to the tomb and found her
 ser - vants, our fer - vent prayer we raise, that, faith - ful

(Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 Cm7 Ab Bb Eb Fm Bb Eb

lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.
 serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death.
 Lord a - ris - en, dis - pel - ling doubt and gloom.
 in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Created to honor the tenth anniversary of the first ordination of a woman in the Lutheran Church in America, this text celebrates representative women of the Bible: Miriam and Ruth from Hebrew Scripture, Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene from the gospels, and Dorcas from Acts.

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers 231



1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,
 2 Christ has ris-en for the peo-ple whom he died to love and save;
 3 Christ has ris-en and for ev-er lives to chal-lenge and to change



as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de-nied.
 Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.
 all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re-li-gion strange.



Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus-tain the cheer;
 Christ has ris-en for dis-ci-ples hud-dled in an up-stairs room.
 Christ is ris-en, Christ is pres-ent mak-ing us what he has been:



let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris-en, God is here!
 He whose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.
 ev-i-dence of trans-for-ma-tion in which God is known and seen.



Beginning with rather conventional Easter imagery, this text moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." The name of this traditional Welsh melody simply means "lullaby."

Bulletin Announcements

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Welcome! If you are visiting Immanuel Church today, we welcome you to Milwaukee's first church, marking its 188th anniversary this year. Today's congregation of over 500 members comes from next door, from neighborhoods throughout the city, and as far north as Port Washington, as far south as Kenosha, and as far west as Summit. Our livestream worship extends our community across the country. Worshipers are invited to **Coffee Hour in the Parlor** following the service. The coffee hosts are Mar Brahm, Kris and Jenna Hanson.

Welcome Team members this morning are Lindsey McKee, Virginia Riggs, and Patsy Aster. They are wearing nametags and are available to answer questions about the church and to give tours of the building.

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available this Sunday from 9:30 until noon. The **Immanuel Nursery** is located on the lower level; elevator access is also available. The **Care Corner** in the northeast corner of the Sanctuary is available for parents with small children who prefer an alternate space during worship. There is also a **"crying room" on the second floor** that offers sight and sound of the Sanctuary. Click the following link to read this week's "Wednesday Grace" email for information about **Church School** activities: <https://conta.cc/4gD7Xap>. Contact Rev. Larson with questions.

DOORS OPEN MILWAUKEE + TODAY UNTIL 5:00

Immanuel joins 160+ Milwaukee organizations in opening our doors for special tours and hospitality. Through Immanuel's participation in this event over the last fourteen years, Immanuel has welcomed **over 6,000 visitors** into our church home! Thank you to the nearly forty Immanuel hosts, led by Elder Lindsey McKee and Rev. Ater, who offered Immanuel's warm hospitality this weekend. Pick up one of Immanuel's "Doors Open Milwaukee" welcome booklets today in the Great Hall. Mr. Jensen will offer a mini organ recital at 12:30 today. More information about the event is available at: <https://historicmilwaukee.org/doors-open/>

PRAYING IN PAINFUL TIMES

with Laura Gilmartin H., Spiritual Director + TODAY at 11:15

Laura Gilmartin H., a spiritual director and creator of SoulCareMKE, will be leading a workshop on prayer in the Upper Room following worship. During the workshop, Laura will introduce several prayer practices to use while praying during difficult times in our lives and in the world around us. All are welcome!

Congratulations to Lara Prebble and Justin Ng who were married in the Sanctuary yesterday by Rev. Ater. Lara is the sister of Immanuel member Elisa Prebble.

The **Milwaukee Lakefront Marathon** is next Sunday morning, October 5. Check for details and street closures here: milwaukeeelakefrontmarathon.org/closures

"A PEACE OF MY MIND": A WEEKEND WITH JOHN NOLTNER

IPC Reads & Weekend Preview + Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

All are invited to join a conversation on John's book *Lessons on the Road to Peace* and get a "preview" of his visit to Immanuel on October 10-12 as part of a Zoom call **this Wednesday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m. – link will be emailed.**

See today's insert for more information.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

THIS Saturday, October 4 + 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. + Astor Street steps

Sign up here: https://bit.ly/IPC_BlessingAnimals2025

Immanuel friends and neighbors are invited to stop by the Immanuel Church steps with your pet(s) on Saturday morning, October 4, anytime between 10:00 and 11:00 for a brief blessing. The event will include a welcome table with photo board and church information. Questions? Contact Rev. Ater (robertater@immanuelwi.org). Help spread the word to friends and neighbors. Pick up a flyer in the Great Hall!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

NEXT Sunday, October 5

Next Sunday, Immanuel Church will once again join congregations around the world in celebrating World Communion Sunday. This annual observance acknowledges and affirms our unity with Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world. Rev. Ater will preach and we'll celebrate Immanuel's long connection with [Living Waters for the World](#) (LWW) and our planned return visit to Cuba to visit our partners and water systems there the last week of October. Members of Immanuel's LWW team will offer a post-worship presentation in the Upper Room.

FALL ASSEMBLY

Sunday, October 19, 2025 + 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Avenue

We listen. We learn. We take action!



Sign up in the Parlor or online at: https://bit.ly/RSVP_CG_Assembly_Oct2025

This gathering of over 1,000 people is the next step in deepening relationships and helping to support crime reduction efforts on Milwaukee's Southside and continued support for tenants organizing for better living conditions.

Immanuel hopes to turn-out 50 people –

join Immanuel's delegation as we show up and show our support!

Common Ground (www.commongroundwi.org) is a non-partisan, multiracial alliance of congregations, schools, nonprofits, small businesses and neighborhood groups with a sixteen-year track record of effective, meaningful change in greater Milwaukee. Immanuel is a founding member. Questions about Common Ground? Follow the link above or contact a member of Immanuel's Common Ground Core Team: Margaret Crowley, Paula Lewein, Martha Mainland, Sharon Rose, and Rob Ater.

NEW SURVEY FROM TRANSITION TEAM

Pastoral Leadership Skills

Over the next few weeks, our Transition Team members will be available to share a list of 20 "pastoral leadership skills" of which you'll be asked to select your top five. This is one final piece of information that will guide our Human Resources Committee and Session in making plans for our church's future. Look for team members with clipboards after worship today! Or complete the survey online at: https://bit.ly/IPC_TransitionTeam_Survey_Fall2025.

SHARE THE GRATITUDE

Pick up "thank you cards" on the Great Hall tables

Last Sunday Rev. Ater shared a report on his gratitude tour that was a part of this summer's sabbatical leave. Join him by sharing gratitude with those most important to you in your life. Pick up a thank you card (*or two or three!*) in the Great Hall today.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Susan and Bob Mikulay following the death of Susan's brother, Bill Whitaker, on Tuesday, September 16. A Memorial Service is planned for October 12 in Akron, Ohio.

"ONLINE GIVING" CARDS IN PEW RACKS

Many Immanuel friends and members submit donations to the church through online banking services. If that is true for you, feel free to place in the offering plate one of the pew-rack cards printed with the phrase "I Support Immanuel Church Through Online Gifts." The act of receiving a weekly offering is an important part of our worship life - an expression of faithfulness requested of all members. The card also lists a QR code for a quick link to our website's donation page. The goal is to facilitate and celebrate our acts of being good stewards of God's many gifts.

ALTERNATE WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

1. **Mail a check** to the office: 1105 N. Waverly Place, Milwaukee, WI 53202.
2. **Go to our website:** <https://www.immanuelwi.org/onlinegiving>
3. **Scan this QR code** with your smart phone camera to connect to giving options on Immanuel's site (vanco.com).
4. **Text 833-712-0259** the amount you wish to give. You will receive a link to giving options on Immanuel's site (vanco.com).



The **Immanuel Columbarium** is open today and every Sunday until noon.

SUNDAY MORNING PARKING: Worshipers may park behind another car in the Waverly or Telluris/Brico (north) lots. **PLEASE place a Sunday bulletin on your dashboard with your name and cell phone number and move your car immediately after worship.** Please DO NOT park in the Barnett Gallery lot.

Thank you to this morning's worship volunteers: Ushers - Dick Myers, Jeff McEathron, Mark Connelly, Paul Campbell; Camera operator - Rabah Rennane.

WEEKLY CALENDAR & UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

Sept. 28

8:55

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Choir rehearsal

9:30-noon

Nursery care ~ *Lower level*

10:00

Morning Worship; Dr. Bush preaching

10:30-11:15

Church School for children and youth ~
The Peaceable Kingdom, lower level

11:15

Coffee Hour in the Parlor

11:00-5:00

Doors Open MKE

Monday

6:00

Choir rehearsal ~ *Choir Room, lower level*

Wednesday

noon

Stewardship Committee ~ *virtual*

7:00

Immanuel Reads "Lessons on the Road to Peace" ~ *virtual*

Saturday

10:00

Blessing of the Animals ~ *Astor Street steps*

NEXT SUNDAY

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Oct 5

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

8:55

Choir rehearsal

9:30-noon

Nursery care ~ *Lower level*

10:00

Morning Worship; Rev. Ater preaching
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

10:30-11:15

Church School for children and youth ~
The Peaceable Kingdom, lower level

11:15

Coffee Hour in the Upper Room

11:15

Living Waters for the World presentation ~ *Upper Room*

Oct 6

6:00

Choir rehearsal ~ *Choir Room, lower level*

Oct 7

6:00

Meeting of the Board of Deacons ~ *Conference Room*

Oct 8

5:00

Mission Committee meeting ~ *Block Conference Room*

Oct 10

5:00

Noltner reception (*see insert*)

Randall K. Bush

Interim Pastor

Robert W. Ater

Associate Pastor

Teresa A. Larson

Associate Pastor

Steven J. Jensen

Organist

John S. Komasa

Choir Director

Crystal Stinemates

Program and Office Administrator

Sarah Campbell

Part-time Financial Administrator

Nathan Wesselowski

Sexton

Cassie Olson

Part-time Program Coordinator

Deborah A. Block

Pastor Emerita

William H. Johnstone

Pastor Emeritus

Jean Dow

Associate Pastor Emerita

James C. Fisher

Parish Associate

Susan J. Stoll

Parish Associate

Sister Karlyn Cauley

Ecumenical Associate

**PORTABLE HEARING DEVICES AND LARGE PRINT BULLETINS
ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE ASK AN USHER FOR ASSISTANCE**



Bulletins returned to the tables in the Narthex will be recycled.



IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1100 North Astor Street

Offices: 1105 North Waverly Place

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

414.276.4757 www.immanuelwi.org

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

September 28, 2025