

Welcome

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
37515 Park Trail, Center City, MN 55012  
**Email:** [office@immanuelalmelund.com](mailto:office@immanuelalmelund.com)  
**Phone:** 651-583-2340  
**Website:** [www.immanuelalmelund.org](http://www.immanuelalmelund.org)  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/immanuelutheranchurhofalmelund>

**Justin Fenger, Pastor**  
[pastor@immanuelalmelund.com](mailto:pastor@immanuelalmelund.com)  
651-308-7717

**Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant**  
[office@immanuelalmelund.com](mailto:office@immanuelalmelund.com)  
651-431-8941

**Momoh Freeman, Organist/Director**  
[Momohfreeman@yahoo.com](mailto:Momohfreeman@yahoo.com)  
(763)415-0330

**Teresa Carlson, Sunday School Leader**  
651-214-9531

**Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors**  
[jfredlund@frontiernet.net](mailto:jfredlund@frontiernet.net)  
**Jason** 651-208-5915  
**DeeDee** 651-206-1190

**Judy Nelson, Prayer Chain**  
[jlnelson62@centurylink.net](mailto:jlnelson62@centurylink.net)  
651-674-5920

**Office Hours:** M-Tu 9-5 W 9-3:30  
unless otherwise noted. Cell phone is  
always available @ 651-431-8941

### IMMANUEL STAFF

**Justin Fenger, Pastor**  
**Momoh Freeman, Organist**  
**Pat Remer, Accompanist**  
**Volunteers Church Custodian**  
**Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant &  
Financial Recorder/Secretary**  
**Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery Groundskeeper**  
**Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors**  
**Teresa Carlson, Sunday School Leader**

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

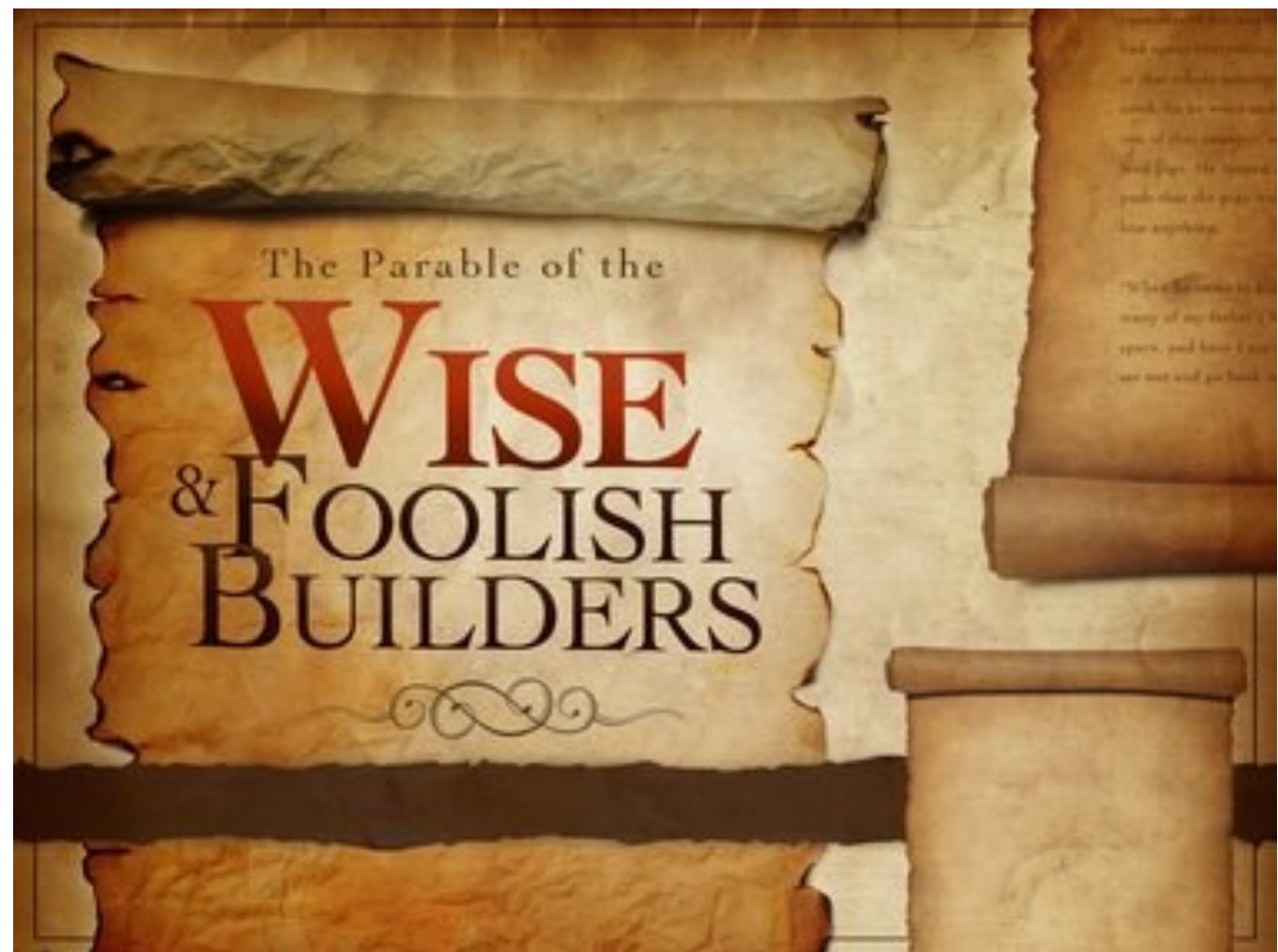
37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 1, 2023

*A welcoming community rooted in Christ, growing in faith and serving with joy!*



**Welcome to Immanuel!**

Thank you for joining us for our worship service. Whoever you are, whatever you've done, or where ever you are in life. You are loved by God which means, You are welcome here at Immanuel. God's grace is given freely, not earned. So whatever journey you are on, God led you here today. We thank you for coming and hope to see you again soon.

**Visitors**, welcome to worship! If you are interested in knowing more about our congregation please speak to Pastor Justin or call the church office! Contact info is on the back of this bulletin.

We Encourage all **Children** who can read, to follow along in the bulletin during our worship service.

**GATHERING**

Today's Service is using the **ELW**; Red Book

**PRELUDE:** "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" by, Momoh & Dave

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

P: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,

**C: the conviction of things not seen.**

P: We come convinced of many things

**C: but trusting very few.**

P: Holy God of limitless surprises,

**C: meet us here in this place**

P: as we touch that which we cannot see

**C: that which we have not dared to hope.**

**OPENING HYMN:** Lead Me, Guide Me #768 ELW

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**O God, we trust in Your power to create, to sustain, to enable. But we could not trust if we did not know that You are always near. Be with us, Lord, as we are gathered here to worship You. Help us not to check our minds or our hearts at the door, but enable us to bring all that we are to You, so that we might experience Your touch upon all aspects of our life. We pray this because of, and in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** "Precious Lord Take my Hand" by, Momoh & Dave

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:**

**NOISY OFFERING:**

**FIRST READING:**

Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

**PSALM:**

Psalm 92:1-4,12-15

R: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

**C: to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,**

R: to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

**C: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

R: The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

**C: They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.**

R: In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,

**C: showing that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**

**SECOND READING:**

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

<sup>51</sup> Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' <sup>55</sup> 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

We invite you to follow the service and take part in a way that feels right to you.

P = Pastor  
L = Leader  
C = **Congregation**  
R = Reader

Sections in **bold** are to be read by the congregation.

**Today's Scripture**

Isaiah 55:10-13  
Psalm 92:1-4,12-15  
1 Corinthians 15:51-58  
Luke 6:39-49

**Today's Hymns**

Hymn #768 ELW  
Hymn #796 ELW  
Hymn #764 ELW  
Hymn #774 ELW

**Happy Birthday  
this week!**

1  
Kristopher Koran  
2  
Brad Johnson  
Christine Loyas  
3  
Mark W. Johnson  
Jason Fredlund  
Calvin Flanery  
4  
MacKenzie Hays  
5  
Clay Ryberg  
James McCarthy  
6  
Jeremy Larson  
7  
Kevin Noyes

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** How Firm A Foundation #796 ELW  
(v. 1)

**GOSPEL:** Luke 6:39-49

**Glory to you O Lord**

39 He also told them a parable: ‘Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? <sup>40</sup>A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. <sup>41</sup>Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? <sup>42</sup>Or how can you say to your neighbour, “Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye”, when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye. <sup>43</sup> ‘No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; <sup>44</sup>for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. <sup>45</sup>The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks. <sup>46</sup> ‘Why do you call me “Lord, Lord”, and do not do what I tell you? <sup>47</sup>I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. <sup>48</sup>That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. <sup>49</sup>But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house.’

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON:**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** How Firm A Foundation #796 ELW  
(v. v.2,3,4)

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**OFFERTORY:** Have No Fear, Little Flock #764 ELW

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:**

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

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

Lord of the Harvest, **Thank you that we can always trust in You. You are an abundant God and out of Your great mercy you have given us so much. We give you this offering today. With it we worship You and give our whole selves to You. Amen**

**HOLY COMMUNION:**

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**COMMUNION HYMN:** “In Christ Alone” by Momoh & Dave

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

Let us pray.

**We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Thank you for helping  
lead worship today!**

**Pastor:**  
Justin Fenger

**Organist:**  
Momoh Freeman

**Special Music:**  
Momoh Freeman  
David Nelson

**Reader:**  
Dwight Johnson

**Ushers:**  
Bob & Diane Rothe

**Sound Tech:**  
Dave Rue

**Camera Tech:**  
Matt Oknich

**Communion Ushers:**  
Tora Carlson  
Marty Johnson  
Bob Rothe

**Children’s Sermon:**  
Teresa Carlson

**Altar Guild: Green**  
Joanne Johnson  
Diane Rothe

**Teachers:**  
Dana Johnson  
Cami Peltier  
Teresa Carlson

**Coffee Servers:**  
Namoi Circle

**Immanuel Church  
Calendar This Week**

**Sunday, October 1**

9:30 Communion Worship  
Service Live and Online,  
W/Noisy Offering;  
Sunday School is after  
children's sermon.

Confirmation is after Church.  
10:30 Coffee Served  
11:00 Counters count offering

**Monday, October 2**

9-5 Office Hours  
10:00 WOW Practice

**Tuesday, October 3**

9-5 Office Hours  
9:00 Worship Team Meets

**Wednesday, October 4**

9-3:30 Office Hours  
12:00 Deadline for bulletin  
Info  
1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets  
2:00 Bulletins Printed

**Thursday, October 5**

**Friday, October 6**

**Saturday, October 7**

**Sunday, October 8**

9:30 Worship Service Live  
and Online. Sunday  
School is after children's  
Sermon.  
10:30 Coffee Served by  
Parish Care Team for  
Pastor Appreciation!!!  
11:00 Counters count offering

**SENDING:**

Changed by the Servant Christ,  
**Send us and together we will go!**  
Changed through patient waiting for the Lord,  
**Send us and together we will go!**  
Changed by the Suffering Servant,  
**Send us and together we will go!**  
Changed by the Lord's victory over evil,  
**Send us and together we will go!**  
Changed by the peace of the Risen Lord,  
**Send us and together we will go!**  
Changed by God's steadfast love,  
**Send us and together we will go!**  
Changed by the Good Shepherd,  
**Send us and together we will go!**  
United in the reign of Christ,  
**Send us and together we will go!**

**BENEDICTION:**

Go with confidence into the days ahead,  
trusting in God's unfailing love and faithfulness.  
God will not abandon you,  
for you are the work of His hands—His own creation—  
and His love endures forever.  
So go in joy to love and serve the Lord!

**CLOSING HYMN:** What A Fellowship #774 ELW

**DISMISSAL:**

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TODAY IS NOISY OFFERING:** We express our thanks to all those who provide special music with a Special Thank You to Momoh's friends who travel a distance to share their talents. We would like to show our appreciation by gifting these musicians with a gas card through, the "Noisy Offerings". So - SAVE YOUR CHANGE and let's make a Joyful Noise Unto The Lord!!!!

**WELCA News:** WELCA Meeting is on October 15 after church.

**PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY OCTOBER 8**

October is the month our nation will observe National Clergy Appreciation month and October 8 is the day set aside for Pastor Appreciation Day. This day which is used to recognize the contributions and services of the clergy and to express our gratitude became celebrated nationally in 1992. However, it began with the Apostle Paul who wrote about it: **give double honors to the elders** who manage the affairs of the church, especially those who work at preaching and teaching. He also said: **acknowledge those among you who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you.** We will recognize our Pastor Justin Fenger on October 8 during the coffee hour after church. Please join us.

**Altar Guild**

Altar Guild would gladly purchase real flowers if any one wants to donate \$50 toward a Sunday. We would need to know at least a week in advance.

**Tune in our Daily Texts**, Monday through Saturday on our Facebook Page [@immanuellutheranchurchofalmelund](https://www.facebook.com/immanuellutheranchurchofalmelund)

A daily devotional time based on an Old and New Testament bible verse based on a Moravian Church tradition and Ground Up Grace Publications.

**Almelund Sampler is Back!**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 22nd - 1-4:00. The afternoon begins at 1:00 with a "sampling of music". After the program, LeeAnn Vande Kamp, "Auctioneer Extraordinaire" will take charge of the Live Auction. Donations of **NEW** items would be appreciated. Worship & Music will serve Layer Cakes and beverages.

**ATTENTION; NEW EMAILS:!!!**

**Church Email:** office@immanuelalmelund.com  
**Pastor Justin's Email:** pastor@immanuelalmelund.com  
**Mark's Email:** office@immanuelalmelund.com  
**Financial Email:** finance@immanuelalmelund.com

**September 24, 2023**

**Attendance: 105**

**Weekly Giving Update:  
September 24, 2023**

General	\$2,509.70
Benevolence	\$80.00
Building Fund	\$50.00
Loose	\$128.00
Online Serv. Fee	<del>\$3.50</del>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,771.20</b>

**Attention - Singers Needed During Taylors Falls Lighting Festival**

Tyler Olson will direct the community chorus for the Coral Vespers held Saturday, November 25, 4:30 PM, during Taylors Falls Lighting Festival. Olson's experience in directing the choir at Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, demonstrates his success in bringing out the best in those who sing. Pat Remer is the accomplished accompanist. The service is thought many to be the centerpiece of the three-day festival.

We need singers, past participants and first timers, both men and women, for this unique service. There are five Sunday evening rehearsals: October 22, 29, November 5, 12 and 19, starting promptly at 6:30 PM to 8 PM at the 1861 United Methodist Church, 190 W Government St., where the service is also held. Please pre-register using [wwymd@aol.com](mailto:wwymd@aol.com) to sign in. Leave your name, voice range and telephone number. You will receive direct email communications and additional information. Thank you for your participation.

**The Immanuel quilters** will meet Tuesday, October 10, 10am-2pm. Potluck lunch at noon! Everyone welcome. If you are looking for a fun summer project, there are boxes of squares in the quilting room, waiting to be sewed. Our upcoming projects include quilts for any spring graduates.

Everyone welcome.

**Naomi Circle** meets at church on Tuesday, October 17 at 9:30. Hostess is Cami Peltier.

**Beer and Hymns**

MiChiLu brings back Beer and Hymns. Reformation Sunday Oct 29  
4:00 pm at the Uncommon Loon. Hoist your Stein and lift your voice

**Join us for Holy Smokes** the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:30-7:30 pm. Faith conversations around the fire-pit. There will always be enough s'mores and hot cocoa to go around.

**Confirmation starting Oct.1** Discovering the New Testament and travels of Paul. Confirmation is Oct 1 and 15 after church down in Youth Room.

**Children Bibles and Blessing** during Worship Oct 8th with Bible class for parents and students after worship in old fellowship hall

**Prayer Shawl Update**

Our shelves are overflowing with a recent generous donation of yarn!! Bundles have been put together for future prayer shawls and are available for anyone to pick up and be creative. You are invited to come and check out the array of yarn and colors, pick some out and join us on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We knit, crochet, have tea & a treat and enjoy fellowship while relaxing to music. If you haven't had the opportunity to learn how to knit or crochet, and would like to give it a try, we would be happy to help you get started. All supplies are available.

Please call Joanne at 651-278-2686 with any questions.

**Blessing of Prayer Shawls will be on Sunday, October 29.**



**All Saints Day-Sunday, November 5** we will be celebrating the lives of the saints in our lives! We will remember the loved ones we have lost this year and those who have died in past years that we hold close in our hearts. There will be an opportunity during our worship service to come forward to light a candle in remembrance of our special loved ones.

Name of person(s) to be remembered or honored:

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given to this Memorial Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Similar to the Easter Memorial Garden, please return this form to the church, along with your contribution by Wednesday, November 1. Make check to Immanuel Lutheran Church Memorial Fund.*

Funds will be used as designated for your chosen Memorial Fund throughout the year. Thank you.

**Note:** *Forms turned in after the November 1 deadline will not be included in the All Saints Sunday memorials listing in the bulletin, but will be listed the next Sunday in the bulletin. Thank you!*



### IMMANUEL'S MEMORIAL FUNDS:

Sunday School Bibles & Curriculum  
Vacation Bible School  
Luther Point Bible Camp  
Christian Education Curriculum for Children,  
Youth, and Adults  
Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall  
Audio Visual Equipment  
Youth Group Mission Trips  
Scholarship Funds  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Immanuel Quilters  
Parish Care Team  
Church Banners  
Itonya Congregation Support  
African Student Scholarships  
Endowment Fund

# All Saints Memorials

Archives Room supplies & Compact  
DVD System for Archives Room  
Church Library Fund  
Choir Music Fund  
Landscaping Fund  
Cemetery Perpetual Care  
Labyrinth  
Carillon Repair Fund  
Church Renovation Fund  
Church computer/software needs  
Fellowship Hall Sound System  
Baptism Booklets (for parents and sponsors)  
Altar Guild  
Undesignated memorial  
Other

### Prayers for Others and Ourselves

Loving God, with thankful hearts we come before you. Thankful for those who made this church more than just a far-fetched dream but who brought it to life and established it within this community. Thankful for those who have served, worshiped, and who have cared for others and so built up the community of God we call [name of church]. Today we are mindful that flowing on from a legacy of the past we have responsibility for the present and the future. Help us channel our faith into action. Help us learn from your eternal story of presence and interaction how we too can facilitate that presence in our world today. Help us learn to be peacemakers in a fractious world, care-givers to the poor and vulnerable, seekers of justice for those who cannot find it for themselves. Help us to learn how to care for the grieving and give encouragement to the young. Help us look beyond thoughts of self and recognise what we can do for others. Lord, you ask us to be loyal to your ways. Teach us your ways; unveil in the stories of scripture the God who we must serve. Let us catch a scent of you as we live out our daily lives. Continue to teach us and show us how to best serve You. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

### All-Age Prayer

Obedient, loyal, courageous, faithful, strong. That's how Joshua was described. People tell stories about Joshua; people sing songs today that express Joshua's greatness. Joshua spoke frankly to the people when they doubted and lost their way. He pointed them to their past and said 'look what the mighty God has done for you'. He asked them to trust and choose the one God in whom they could trust. We have a story too. We have a past we can look to for reassurance when the going gets tough. In that story we find the same God Joshua knew. The God of Joshua; the God of his ancestors, and ours. The God in whom we can trust. The God in whom we should trust. Amen.

### Reflection

You will need to adjust some of the geographical references for your own setting, and with apologies to the late great Woody Guthrie. This land is your land, this land is my land, from Aberdeenshire to the Western Islands, from the Galloway forest to the Shetland waters, this land was made for you and me. As we remember the clans that gathered, in lowland valleys and highlands scattered, their stories echo with our inheritance, this land was made for you and me. In this homecoming and celebration in towns and cities across the nation raised flags and banners in jubilation: this land was made for you and me. This land is your land, this land is my land, from Aberdeenshire to the Western Islands, from the Galloway forest to the Shetland waters, this land was made for you and me. We've roamed and rambled, we've followed our story, from steelworks and shipyards to farms and colliery, and as the machinery lies cold and silent, was this land made for you and me? Our shops are filled with goods beyond counting, yet in the foodbank the tins need sorting, we see queues standing, and we keep asking: is this land made for you and me? This land is your land, this land is my land, from Aberdeenshire to the Western Islands, from the Galloway forest to the Shetland waters, this land was made for you and me. And so our story has yet no ending for this, our country, still needs tending, our pride and passion is yet to fashion a land that's made for you and me. This land is your land, this land is my land, from Aberdeenshire to the Western Islands, from the Galloway forest to the Shetland waters, this land was made for you and me.

### October 1, 2023 LECTIONARY 26

#### Change for the Better

Public officials routinely get drilled about changing their minds, especially around reelection time. One's past pledges as a political candidate are not easily left behind or forgotten. Earlier promises are often used to measure one's moral character in light of one's actual voting record. A change in opinion can be viewed with suspicion or lead to accusations of hypocrisy. We want consistency. Above all, we want to know that we can trust others to follow through on their word. This is understandable.

Unfortunately, such political norms don't often allow for the power of changing one's mind. Jesus' parable of the two sons suggests that a change in heart can in fact be a sign of deeper listening and transformation. Conversely, a refusal to change can leave us stalled on our spiritual journeys. In this way, "flip-flopping" might not always be a bad thing but rather might indicate our faithfulness to God's ongoing role in our lives.

God's promises in baptism make such change possible. Martin Luther encouraged that we daily return to our baptism. Every day God's grace frees us to admit the possibility that we have previously been or done wrong, or perhaps simply haven't been able to see the whole picture before. Grace also affords us the chance to allow that anyone can be transformed in ways previously thought impossible or unexpected. The promises that God makes in baptism open the door not only for us but for everyone else too. We can learn perhaps to trust not in consistency but in the endless possibilities for change and growth. Sometimes a change in opinion goes only as far as what we think will be most popular. But changing our mind, when done in a spirit of authentic discernment and from the heart, can be transformative. It might even open us to the kingdom of God in ways unknown before.

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