



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

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# Midweek Manual 2022-2023



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“Making more and stronger disciples of Jesus Christ  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

## **What is “Midweek”?**

Midweek is the 4-year path to confirmation at Immanuel generally starting at 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **What is Confirmation at Immanuel?**

Confirmation is the granting of the right to exercise the privilege of partaking of Communion. Individuals are instructed and then publicly confess the faith given to them in baptism and taught thereafter. All who are received by this rite, following instruction in the fundamentals of Christian doctrine as interpreted by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and having been examined publicly or privately as to their knowledge of those teachings, become communicant members.

## **What is the goal of midweek?**

Our mission statement says that Immanuel is “Making more and stronger disciples of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.” Midweek exists to strengthen disciples of Jesus Christ. We want to see young Christians strengthened for a life in Christ as they prepare to publicly confess their faith prior to receiving the Lord’s Supper.

## **What is expected of those going through midweek instruction?**

We expect families to gather with the church, participate in Bible Study, and to be involved in the life of Immanuel. Students attend midweek instruction, complete assignments, and prepare to confidently confess their faith before the congregation both on confirmation Sunday and throughout life.

## **How can we get ready for Midweek?**

Families gather with the church for the Divine Service and Bible Study. Parents talk about the faith, pray, and discuss both Scripture and the catechism with their children at home. Parents may be overwhelmed by this godly task at times, but your pastor(s) and elders are here to pray for you and to help you along the way.

The pastor will meet with families to discuss midweek instruction to ensure that the families and students are ready to begin midweek instruction.

## **What will they learn in midweek?**

In years 1-2 (usually 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade), students go through two years of Biblical literacy. Many Bible stories will probably be familiar from Sunday School and Bible Study at home, but the first two years of instruction will solidify the students' understanding of the Bible. Students will memorize Bible verses and work through the contents of the New and Old Testament. (Taught by Jen Janssen)

In years 3 and 4 (usually those in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade), students will work through the catechism with the pastor. The Pastor will help connect the dots between the Scriptures and why we believe what we believe as Christians which shapes who we are and how we live. Students will commit Bible verses and parts of the Catechism to heart, grow in a life of prayer, and gain a better understanding of why we do what we do as Christians. (Taught by Pastor Demski)

## **What kind of time commitment is involved?**

Midweek instruction takes place on Wednesday nights during the school year. Midweek starts on the Wednesday after Rally Day (the last Sunday of August) and goes until the Wednesday before Confirmation Sunday (the last Sunday of April). Classes are aligned with the school district (i.e., when there's a snow day or holiday for school, there will be no midweek class).

The students gather in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm on Wednesday nights for the first 15 minutes to discuss the liturgy and hymnody of the church. We also discuss various ways to serve in the church. Students then split into their classes until 8 pm.

During Advent and Lent the church gathers for worship at 6:30 pm and then the students go to their classes until 8 pm.

All students will complete at least 8 worship service reports (at least 1 per month). These can be found in the church office or right outside the sanctuary. Students will complete the report about the service that he/she has attended and then turn it into the teacher.

All 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> year students are expected to complete 6 hours of community service during the midweek year. You can find a list of volunteer opportunities on [immanuelwaterloo.org](http://immanuelwaterloo.org) or ask your teacher. Community

service gets students into the habit of caring for others outside of the family. Some students already have a practice of volunteering, in which case they record it and provide it to the teacher.

All 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> year students also serve as acolytes. They assist with the lighting and extinguishing of candles during worship services. Lisa Clamors in the church office organizes that schedule.

When students get to years 3-4, they also choose between being trained to help with ushering or media.

Summary of time commitment:

- Church and Bible Study attendance (turning in service reports).
- Acolyte duty
- Community Service
- Media and Usher duty in the final two years.

### **What would prevent a student from being confirmed?**

When students and their families are regularly missing class, worship, or Bible Study, and are showing no comprehension of what is being discussed or show no desire to be faithful Christians, the Pastor will talk to the family ahead of time to figure out how to move forward. We desire all Christians to approach the Lord's table having been examined and absolved.

Confirmation is a rite in which students publicly confess the faith delivered to them in baptism and taught to them afterward before receiving the body and blood of Christ. The rite contains vows of faithfulness to God and Christian living. We desire students to be ready for the vows that they speak. The student and his/her family can talk with the pastor about whether the student needs more years of midweek instruction or some one-on-one instruction.

The pastors and elders of Immanuel want to help parents raise their kids in the true faith and encourage them along the way through prayer and teaching.

## **What materials do students need for class?**

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> year students only need a Bible and something to write with.

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> year students need a Bible, a Catechism, and something to write with.

## **What does homework look like?**

The 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> year students focus on Bible verse memorization.

The 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> year students focus on Bible memorization and Catechism memorization each week. Students will be quizzed and tested throughout the year to hold them accountable and encourage them in their studies. They will also have assignments related to building a life of prayer. The assignments each week will walk through how to pray using Scripture and the Psalms throughout the week.

While we desire students to memorize content and do well on assessments, our goal is to instill a delight in God's Word and a life of prayer both individually and when gathering with the church.

## **What does Confirmation Day and the lead up to Confirmation Day look like?**

Parents of the students in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> year will get regular updates through the year about how the student is doing.

4<sup>th</sup> year students will write an essay based on a verse he/she has selected. The essay will be 250 words and will be read during a worship service leading up to Confirmation. The essay will state the verse, the meaning of the verse, and then why the verse is important to the student.

Prior to Confirmation, each student will be examined by the pastor in the presence of the student's parent(s). While quizzes and tests will have been administered through the year, this is an opportunity for the student and his/her parents to sit down with the pastor and confidently answer questions about the Christian faith and how the student plans to live out that faith both within the congregation and beyond. Students should be ready to confidently respond to questions about the 6 chief parts of the Small Catechism and Bible passages that have been discussed. A catechumen is ready when he/she can answer questions about the faith

and demonstrate a life of repentance and faith that continues to grow within Christ's church.

Parents promise at baptism to raise their children in the Christian faith with the help of sponsors, so parents will also be asked during the interview about their intention to continue encouraging their children in the faith, bringing them to church, and demonstrating a Christian life.

On Confirmation Day, students will arrive at 10 am, get dressed in their robes, process in with the pastor, sit in the front pews and worship together at the 10:15 service. During the service, each student will state his/her name and recite his/her verses. The students will then confess their faith by answering questions asked by the pastor and making vows of faithfulness to God through Christ. Students will then approach the altar, one by one with his/her parents and sponsors to be blessed by the pastor.

### **What If?**

#### **What if we aren't ready for all of this?**

Families can talk with the pastor about any concerns to determine how families can be encouraged and built up through Christian instruction.

#### **What if we think our child is ready to enter midweek earlier?**

Families can talk to the pastor about a student entering midweek earlier than 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

#### **What if our student arrived at Immanuel after 5<sup>th</sup> grade?**

You will meet with the pastor to determine where your student will best fit into the classes to continue studies. Students who are later into high school will probably want to meet with the pastor one-on-one to discuss the faith as they are attending church and Bible study.

#### **What if we don't feel confident in our ability to teach the faith at home?**

Your pastor(s) and elders are here to help. Your elder will be in communication with you asking how he can pray for you and what help you may need. There are many resources. Don't be overwhelmed. If

you're not familiar with a life of prayer and Bible reading, we'll help you grow. If your family doesn't have a habit of gathering with the church, let's get together and discuss how that habit can be built.

## **2022-2023 MIDWEEK SCHEDULE**

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church Waterloo, Illinois**

Wed., Aug. 31, 6:30-8:00 pm

Wed., Sept. 7, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Sept. 14, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Sept. 21, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Sept. 28, 6:30-8:00 pm

Wed., Oct. 5, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Oct. 12, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Oct. 19, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Oct. 26, 6:30-8:00 pm

Wed., Nov. 2, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Nov. 9, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Nov. 16, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving Break)  
\*Wed., Nov. 30, 6:30-8:00 pm

\*Wed., Dec. 7, 6:30-8:00 pm  
\*Wed., Dec. 14, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Dec. 21 (Christmas Break)  
Wed., Dec. 28 (Christmas Break)

Wed., Jan. 4, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Jan. 11, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Jan. 18, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Jan. 25, 6:30-8:00 pm

Wed., Feb. 1, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Feb. 8, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Feb. 15, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Wed., Feb. 22, 6:30-8:00 pm

\*Wed., Mar. 1, 6:30-8:00 pm  
\*Wed., Mar. 8, 6:30-8:00 pm  
\*Wed., Mar. 15, 6:30-8:00 pm  
\*Wed., Mar. 22, 6:30-8:00 pm  
\*Wed., March 29, 6:30-8:00 pm

Wed., Apr. 5, (Easter Break)  
Wed., Apr. 12 6:30-8 pm  
Wed., Apr. 19 6:30-8 pm  
Wed., Apr. 26, 6:30-8:00 pm (Last Class)

\*Midweek services.

## **Confirmation Essays Read During Services April 22-23, 2023**

**Confirmation Sunday  
April 30, 2023  
10:15 am**

We look forward to growing in Christ together!

If you have any questions, please contact [pastor.demski@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.demski@gmail.com)

# **USHER AND MEDIA DUTIES:**

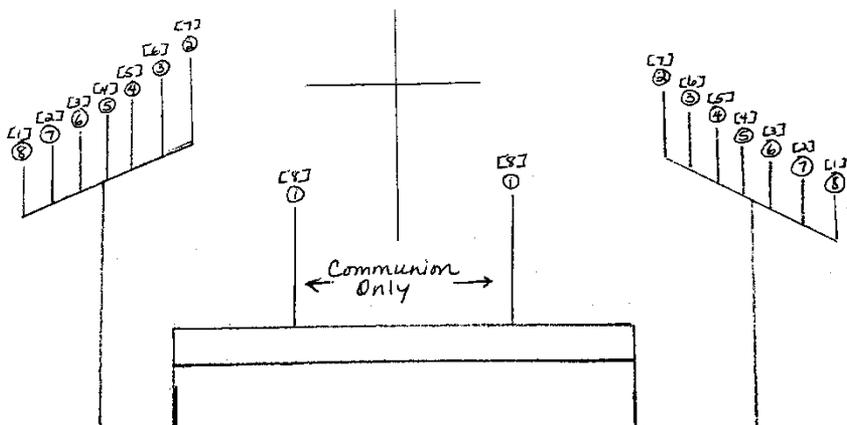
## **USHERING**

- 1. Arrive at church 30 minutes before service to greet people entering the building.**
- 2. Work with the usher team on duty to assist during service.**
- 3. Be attentive and welcoming to all in attendance.**
- 4. There is a full “Usher Duties” list in the usher closet.**

## **MEDIA**

- 1. Arrive at church 15 minutes before service to make sure everything is set up in the media area of the balcony.**
- 2. There is a list in the computer desk in the balcony with additional media information.**

○ = light - □ = extinguish



### ACOLYTE DUTIES:

1. Be in the church office fifteen minutes before the service.
2. Put on your robes.
3. Go out to light the candles (according to the diagram) 6-7 minutes before the service. Always light the sacramental candles unless it's a midweek service. The candles are always lit starting at the center with Christ.
4. Before and after you light the candles, reverence the altar.
5. After reverencing the altar, place your candlelighter in the holder and then walk down and sit with your family in the pews.
6. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse of the closing hymn, walk up to the altar, get your candlelighter and extinguish the candles (according to the diagram). The candles are always extinguished ending with Christ at the center.
7. Before and after you extinguish the candles, reverence the altar.

# Immanuel Waterloo Service Report

**NAME:**

**Date:**

What day of the church year is it?

Who is preaching?

What color  
are the  
paraments?  
Why?

On which Bible passage is the sermon  
based?

**Book:**

**Chapter:**

**Verse(s):**

**Favorite Song/Hymn today:**

Why?

What was the main point of the sermon?

Words or Phrases I don't know or  
questions that I have.

What else did you learn from the sermon?

In worship today I learned that....

Use the back of this sheet to write or draw  
something that stood out to you during the  
service.

(This could be part of the liturgy, in the  
sermon, in a hymn, or from the Bible reading.)

## 2021-2022 Midweek Service Project

*Immanuel Lutheran Church – Waterloo, IL*

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Service Event/Project/Person Helped \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe what was completed during this project \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many hours did this project take? \_\_\_\_\_

Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Person Helped or Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_