

Immanuel Lutheran Church
9 a.m. Worship
In Person / Live Streaming / Conference Call

ADVENT



Sundays, November 28, December 5, 12, and 19, 2021



Welcome to worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here. Immanuel Lutheran Church is an inclusive congregation extending God's love and grace to all people. There is a welcome place for you here!

***God's Grace and Peace to YOU through our Lord and Savior
Jesus the Christ!***

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Hear Love. Eat Love. Share Christ's Love.

Immanuel's Mission Statement

Hear Love. Eat Love. Share Christ's Love.

To **hear love** by studying, proclaiming, and preaching the Word of God.

To **eat love** by feeding and communing with the bodily and spiritually hungry.

To **share Christ's love** through service to others and proclaiming the Good News to the world.

Immanuel's Golden Nuggets

As people of God, the following are the identifying non-negotiable characteristics of Immanuel Lutheran Church:

1. God's Word and Sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion) are paramount in the life of Immanuel.
2. We are an inclusive congregation: ALL are welcome.
3. As disciples of Christ, we live in service to God and others.
4. We are an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregation.



Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. We eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord, who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world, and proclaims your way of mercy and truth. For your Word who is Christ, we magnify you, O God.

*All those who are able please stand

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.



***CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Hear God's love!

C: We hear God's love, for the world and for us, through forgiveness, scripture, preaching, liturgy, and song.

P: Hear God's love!

C: Holy God, open our ears to hear and our hearts to be transformed by Christ's words of love to and for the world. Amen.

***INVOCATION**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as Pastor Howard begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,



C: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✠ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

See Announcement Sheet

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 1 **November 28**

P: Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,

C: let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Light one candle.



Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 2 **December 5**

P: Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,

C: let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

Light two candles.

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 3 **December 12**

P: Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

C: let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

Light three candles.

P: Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Immanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

C: let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Immanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

Light all four candles.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. ... Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song.



FIRST READING

First Sunday of Advent: November 28, 2021

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Sunday of Advent: December 5, 2021

Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Third Sunday of Advent: December 13, 2021

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 19, 2021

Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

First Sunday of Advent: November 28, 2021

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Sunday of Advent: December 5, 2021

Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Third Sunday of Advent: December 12, 2021

Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 19, 2021

Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BUILDING THE NATIVITY SCENE



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Setting 8, Page 188

Musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. It consists of four staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the melody and lyrics with a double bar line.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

First Sunday of Advent: November 28, 2021

Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

Second Sunday of Advent: December 5, 2021

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

Third Sunday of Advent: December 12, 2021

Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 19, 2021

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke the _____ chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel is proclaimed, concluding:

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Children's Christmas Program
Christmas Jubilate ~ Choir

December 12, 2021 (Recorded November 7, 2021)
December 19, 2021

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

See Announcement Sheet

***NICENE CREED**

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope in our Lord, Jesus Christ, we confess our faith:

**C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.



P: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect.
Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

God's people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace through the posture of bowing.

OFFERING

We give God our thanks and praise through our tithes and offerings of thanksgiving for the mission of the church including the care of those in need. For those worshiping inside the sanctuary we will receive your offerings in the plates located at the back of the sanctuary. For those who are worshiping online, you are invited to mail your checks to Immanuel, sign up for automatic withdrawal, or give online through our website: luthwash.org

*OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, ... through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C: **Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, the Beginning and the End, ...
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

... Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

P: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace. Eat Christ's love.

COMMUNION: *We celebrate Holy Communion today; Christ's banquet: a gift of Christ's presence, a gift of forgiveness, gift of life for YOU! You received the prepacked sealed grape juice with a sealed wafer on top as you entered the sanctuary. When Pastor Howard says, "The body of Christ, given for you." you may open the wafer and eat. When Pastor Howard says, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." You may open the grape juice and drink. You may bless the non-communing members of your family with the words "Name, you are a beloved child of God."*

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Response: Amen.



***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. Most High God, ... through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
C: **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.



***BENEDICTION**

P: Christ has no body
But yours,...
The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through ✠ Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
C: **Amen.**

Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

***SENDING HYMN**

See Announcement Sheet

***DISMISSAL**

P: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. You have heard love.

C: We have heard Christ's love!

P: You have eaten love.

C: We have eaten Christ's love!

P: Filled with Christ's love,

C: we will share Christ's love with our neighbors! Thanks be to God.

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