



*The LORD your God...*

will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love.

Z E P H A N I A H 3 : 1 7 , E S V

*Third Sunday in Advent*

Immanuel Lutheran Church ~ LCMS

Lakefield, Minnesota

December 15, 2024

### Invocation and Opening Verses

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.
- C** **The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.**
- P** “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.
- C** **The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;**
- P** He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;
- C** **He will exult over you with loud singing.**

**P** I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

**C** **We worship You, O Lord!** (Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b–17, 20)

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(Three Advent candles are lit.)

**P** Let us pray. O Lord, today we light the candles for JOY, peace, and hope. Let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and to let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## Hymn: 331 The Advent of Our King



1 The ad-vent of our King Our prayers must now em-ploy,  
2 The ev-er-last-ing Son In-car-nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi-on's daugh-ter, rise To meet your low-ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a-gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho-ly joy.  
Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.  
Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem-bers all u-nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day

Let sin's dark deeds be gone,

The sinful self be put away,

The new self now put on.

△6 All glory to the Son,

Who comes to set us free,

With Father, Spirit, ever one

Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.  
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76  
Text and tune: Public domain

## *Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Confession and Absolution

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

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

# Service of the Word

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Zephaniah 3:14–20*

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

Behold, at that time I will deal

with all your oppressors.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Introit**            *Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord always;

**again I will say, Rejoice.**

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in  
them,

**who keeps faith forever;**

who executes justice for the oppressed,

**who gives food to the hungry.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the  
eyes of the blind.

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the  
LORD loves the righteous.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Rejoice in the Lord always;

**again I will say, Rejoice.**

## Epistle

*Philippians 4:4–7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Choir

*Come, Emmanuel*

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 7:18–28*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

**C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed

in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

### Hymn: 349 Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51  
 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820  
 Text and tune: Public domain

### Sermon

*Stand*

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came  
down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the  
virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius  
Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to  
the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge  
both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is  
worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and



**apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission  
of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Offering**

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church**

- A** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

## *Service of the Sacrament*

**Spoken responsively:**

- P** Lo, He who is coming has come!  
**C** We welcome Him with thankful hearts.  
**P** Lo, He who has come is coming!  
**C** We wait for Him with fervent faith.  
**P** Lo, He comes!  
**C** Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

**Preface**....tune: Voices Raised to You We Offer

**As God's children, graced and gifted  
Gathered, guided all our days,  
So with grateful hearts uplifted  
Join we now to sing the praise  
Of the Lord who keeps His promise:  
Thankful hearts to Him we raise.**

**Thanksgiving**

Thanks and praise are due to you, Father Almighty,  
merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old  
your faithful people waited for the day of your coming,

manifest when you sent forth your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Having seen his glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when he will come again as Judge and King. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**Sanctus....tune: Voices Raised to You We Offer**

**Lo, the heav'nly host rejoices:**

**“Holy, holy, holy Lord!”**

**Lo, God's people join their voices:**

**“God of hosts, by all adored.**

**Heav'n and earth proclaim your glory,**

**Sing your praise with one accord!”**

**Blest is He who now draws near us**

**In the name of God the King!**

**Blest is He who comes to cheer us—**

**Let our welcome joyful ring:**

**“Hail! Hosanna! Hallelujah!”**

**Highest praises echoing.**

**Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 196*

**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.**

## The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## Pax Domini

LSB 197

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

**Agnus Dei....tune:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O Lamb of God, you take away—the sin of all.**

**Have mercy, Lord, we pray!**

**O Lamb of God, you take away—the sin of all.**

**Have mercy, Lord, we pray!**

**O Lamb of God, our faith increase,**

**And grant us now your gift of peace!**

*Sit*

## Distribution

**Hymn: 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

**Hymn: 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**

**Hymn: 333 Once He Came in Blessing**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

**The Thanksgiving....tune: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

**Thank the Lord, His praises voicing**

**For His promised faithfulness!**

**All who seek the Lord, rejoicing,**

**Tell His love, His name confess;**

**For He leads us, with thanksgiving,**

**In the paths of righteousness.**

**At your Word, Lord, let your servant**

**Go in peace, for with my eyes**

**I have seen your bright salvation;**

**Israel's Light, begin to rise**

**As the glory of the nations,**

**Leading on to paradise!**

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Spoken responsively:

- P** Lo, He who is coming has come!  
**C** We receive Him with thankful hearts.  
**P** Lo, He who has come is coming!  
**C** We wait for Him with fervent faith.  
**P** Lo, He comes!  
**C** Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

*Sit*

## Hymn: 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

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## **Assisting with the Service**

*Preacher Rev. Noel Herr*

*Elder Albert Henning & Luke Henning*

*Organist Jayson Matasovsky*

*Acolyte Jada Milbrath & Nora Freking*

*Usher Crystal Dafoe & Leann Henning*

## **We Remember in our Prayers**

*Those who have lost loved ones over the past year*

*Rev. Matthew Lane as he considers the Call to Immanuel and  
Peace Lutheran Church in Faribault, where he  
currently serves*

*Our residents at Colonial Manor, Valley View, Golden  
Horizons in Worthington, Good Sam in Jackson, Accura  
HealthCare in Milford, Lakeview in Heron Lake,  
Koronis in Paynesville*

*Keith Kolander, Loretta Palmer, Jackie Ward, Ken Pohlman,  
Marlene Hendricksen, Ines Henning, Merlyn Rossow,  
Betty Hage, Bev Hall, dealing with health issues*

*Miles Ramsey, toddler cousin of Amy Altman; Zach  
Williamson, friend of Pastor McDonald; Pastor Dennis  
Brech, Lake Shetek; Joyce Urmie, sister-in-law of Vickie  
Baumann; Stacey Dunker, mother of ILS student  
Janessa Dunker; Pastor Ben Rucker; Mitch Voehl, son  
of Lila Voehl; Marcus Lere, grandson of Joyce  
Bretzman; Denny Daberkow; Jim Salentiny, uncle of  
Mark Freking; dealing with cancer*

*Suzanne Leopold, friend of Jan Bakalyar; Joe Bradley,  
nephew of Joyce Aden; Mary Holt, aunt of Debbi  
Gettler; Jeff Meyer, friend of Bruce and Jan Bakalyar;  
Rob Pohlman, son of Ken Pohlman; Curt Gates,  
brother-in-law of Miles Voehl (Lila's son), dealing with  
health issues*

*Our Missionaries in the Field*

*Our Country and Our Military*

**COMMUNION:** The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is being offered to our confirmed communicants today and is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we truly receive, under the bread and wine, the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, through which we further truly receive the forgiveness of sins. Besides individually receiving Christ's gift of forgiveness in this Sacrament, all those who commune here make a confession of their unity in the faith as it is believed and taught in our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and in this congregation. Therefore, if you are not a confirmed communicant member, in good standing, of a Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod congregation, we kindly ask that you respect our beliefs and refrain from coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament until you have had an opportunity to speak with Pastor.

**IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE** you may contact Pastor McDonald directly (507-993-1113 or [mcdonald.david66@yahoo.com](mailto:mcdonald.david66@yahoo.com)), Amy in the church office (507-662-5718 or [immanuel@immanuellakefield.com](mailto:immanuel@immanuellakefield.com)), or speak to one of the elders. This includes visits, prayer requests, communion for home bound members, among others. Pastor McDonald is our administrative vacancy pastor.

**WE WELCOME** all of our guests and visitors this weekend. We invite you to visit us again. If you have no church home and would like to make Immanuel your church home, please speak to Pastor or one of the Elders at the end of the service.

**A CALL** was extended to Rev. Matthew Lane. Please pray for Pastor Lane and his family as he considers the Call to serve us here at Immanuel and his current Call to Peace Lutheran Church in Faribault. Pray that the Lord would guide him in his decision.

# Christmas Worship Schedule

ILS Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 18

12:30 PM & 6:30 PM

Sunday School Christmas Service

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 PM

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

10:45 AM Service with special

Pre-Service Christmas  
Music and Carol Sing

starting at 10:20 AM



**LWML CHRISTMAS PARTY** is today, Sunday, December 15th at 11:45 a.m. in the church basement. A potluck lunch will be served. Bring a dish to pass if you're able. Ham will be provided by the LWML. Hostesses are the LWML members. All ladies are welcome to join them!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP:** We are looking for members to help with ushering. Please check out the sign-up sheet on the window in the narthex and write yourself in for a service if you are able to. Questions on ushering? Please ask one of our elders.



**YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY:** Starting on January 5th, in addition to adult Bible Class in the church basement, our Junior and Senior high youth will have another option on Sunday mornings for Bible Study... Youth Group Bible Study.

It's at 10:15 a.m. in the youth room (a.k.a. mother's room).

**WHO:** Junior & Senior High Youth (6th-12th grade) with LaDonna Peterson as teacher/monitor

**WHAT:** Youth Bible Study

**FORMAT:** A Podcast from Higher Things, including Scripture reading and small group conversation

**WHEN:** Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m.

**WHERE:** the YOUTH ROOM... a.k.a. Mother's room

**WHY:** To take time to formally study God's Word and become aware of biblically sound resources to help our teens grow in their faith relationship with our dear Savior and Lord!

**NO CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
THIS YEAR DUE TO THE VACANCY**

**STARTING IN JANUARY**  
**OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**TIME ALONG WITH SUNDAY**  
**SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS TIMES**  
**WILL CHANGE TO:**

- ♦ *Worship: 9:00 a.m.*
- ♦ *Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.*
- ♦ *Youth Group Bible Study: 10:15 a.m.*
- ♦ *Bible Class: 10:15 a.m.*



# God's Christmas



## **Sunday School Christmas Service**

**Tuesday, December 24  
4:00 p.m.**

**FOOD DRIVE** for the Lakefield Food Shelf is going on right now. You are invited to bring items to the church any time and place them in the narthex. Your items may also be taken to Maynard's. Monetary gifts are also appreciated and can be dropped off here at the church (give to Amy), at City Hall, or mailed to the Lakefield Food Shelf, PO Box 115, Lakefield, MN 56150.

## **YOU'RE INVITED TO A BRAND-NEW BIBLE STUDY**

In the beginning was the Word... This is how the book of John begins. In the beginning God spoke, and light invaded the darkness. But instead of walking with God in the light, humanity fell into sin and darkness. Now, God has once again invaded the darkness with the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Join us for Bible Class as we learn more about the "Word" – Jesus Christ – in the book of John. Interactive video, stimulating conversation, coffee and treats await. 9:30AM through December and then following church after the New Year.

## **FLAT SHEETS, COTTON AND FLANNEL**

The Immanuel Quilters are in need of flat sheets, both cotton and flannel. The sheets will be used as bottoms and fillers for the Orphan Grain Train quilts that the quilters are assembling. You may drop them off at the church basement. Questions, please call Connie at 507-841-3350.

**OUR PRAYERS** are with those who have lost loved ones over the past year as they spend their first Christmas without their loved ones.

**ILS CHRISTMAS  
SERVICE  
"Promise Fulfilled"  
Wednesday  
December 18  
12:30 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.**



**ADVENT DEVOTIONS** from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available in both regular and large print on the welcome center in the narthex. This year's devotions are called "Come, Let Us Adore Him". Please help yourself to a copy. There are also Advent Devotions available from Martin Luther High School, Northrop. This one is called "Immanuel: God with Us" and the devotions are written by Martin Luther High School staff and students. Please help yourself.

### **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS**

- ILS Christmas Service is Wednesday 12/18 at 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- NO SCHOOL – CHRISTMAS BREAK – Monday 12/23 through Wednesday 1/1
- Upcoming Basketball
  - Monday 12/16 at 4:15: A at St. Paul's Fairmont
  - Tuesday 12/17 at 4:15: B at home vs. St. John Vianney

### **2024 CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

Board of Elders: Jim Berkevich, Shane Rossow, Luke Henning, Steve Matasovsky, Joel Poppe

Board of Education: Jonah Dagele, Brandon Laabs, Justin Scholten, Leann Henning, Deb Jons, Lori Henning

Board of Finance: Jesse Ackermann, Ron Gettler, Debbi Gettler, Joel Burmeister, Tara Boogerd, Cheryl Ulferts

Board of Trustees: Jeff Frantsen, Travis Dennis Rossow, Mark Freking, Austin Rossow, Andrew T. Rossow, Clay Salzwedel

Board of Congregational Services: Sarah Laabs, Tim Timko, Monette Berkevich, Lola Gunther, Dellynn Monson

Congregational Chairman: Kurt Swanson

Congregational Secretary: Kerry Sydnes

**THANK YOU** to our outgoing Officers for their many hours of dedicated work during their term of office. Your support and help are very much appreciated, especially by the staff of Immanuel. Thank you to:

*Albert Henning: Elder*

*Jared Ackermann: Trustee*

*Stuart Peterson: Trustee*

*Josh Swanson: Education*

*Katie Burmeister: Education*

*Luke Rossow: Education*

*Jeremy Boogerd: Finance*

*Lori Henning: Congregational Services*

*Sue Salzwedel: Congregational Secretary*

**LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH:** Please keep the men and women you have entrusted to lead our congregation in your prayers as they serve in the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church in their official capacity as an officer or board member.

**CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS!** Concordia St. Paul's **Twin Cities High School Honor Choir** will take place on Monday, February 10th at Concordia University St. Paul. This auditioned SATB honor choir intends to reward hard-working young musicians with a chance to sing with like-minded peers in a collegiate setting. Join Dr. Paul von Kampen, the choirs of CSP, and other talented high school singers for an unforgettable day of music making! The day will consist of rehearsals, sectionals, and a closing concert at 4:30 p.m. for family and friends. ***Auditions close December 18th.*** Submit your audition by scanning the QR code on the "Twin Cities Honor Choir" flyer that is on the church bulletin board. For more information, contact Dr. Paul von Kampen at [vonkampp@csp.edu](mailto:vonkampp@csp.edu).

**ANNUAL REPORTS:** December is here and January is right around the corner. Amy would appreciate having the reports in the church office by January 10th. Thank you!

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** for January through March are now available on the welcome center in the narthex in both regular and large print. Please help yourself to a copy.

**FROM TIME-TO-TIME** confirmation class ends early. When that happens, Pastor McDonald has the students write down questions they may have for him to answer. The questions do not have to be about what was studied for the day.

Here are some examples of them:

- *Who is the oldest person in the Bible?*

Most would say Methuselah, who died at 969 years old. However, his father, Enoch, never died, so he is still walking with God in heaven still having birthdays. (Genesis 5:19-27; Hebrews 11:5)

- *What was it like becoming a pastor?*

There is great joy in becoming a pastor, but there is a lot of trepidation with that joy. It is wonderful to tell people about Jesus and all God has done to save us. It is wonderful to tell people about how God created the world and how much He loves us. When going to the seminary to become a pastor, there are a lot of times when it gets tough. Some classes are much harder than others and if a person doesn't do well in those classes, he begins to doubt whether or not he would be a good pastor. As a pastor, there are great joys and great disappointments to live through. When you love the people God has sent you to serve, but some of them do not want to listen or believe it is very sad. But when you see people growing in the faith, it makes pastors very happy.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** are now available at the bookstore. Come check out the wonderful selection. You can either pay Amy in the church office or leave your money in the empty box by the cards. *There is also a variety of Christmas gift bags with a religious theme available. Stop and take a look!*

**SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** need to be turned in to Amy in the office by December 25th.

Wondering where you can watch this service?

1. Facebook: “Immanuel Lutheran Church” on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. or any time after.
2. YouTube: “Immanuel Lutheran Church and School Lakefield” on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. or any time after.

**POINTS OF INFORMATION December 8, 2024**

<i>Current Fund received this past week.....</i>	<b>\$14,737</b>
<i>Needed each week.....</i>	<b>\$18,504</b>
<i>Non-budget giving</i>	
<i>School Doors.....</i>	<b>\$7,200</b>
<i>Poinsettias/Wreaths.....</i>	<b>\$426</b>
<i>Building.....</i>	<b>\$30</b>
<i>Video Ministry.....</i>	<b>\$25</b>
<i>Memorial given in memory of</i>	
<i>Delores Steffen to Immanuel School.....</i>	<b>\$10</b>
<i>Current Fund needed for November.....</i>	<b>\$74,016</b>
<b><i>Offering Received in November.....</i></b>	<b>\$58,620</b>
<b><i>+ Tuition Received in November.....</i></b>	<b>\$5,303</b>
<b><i>= Current Fund Total November.....</i></b>	<b>\$63,923</b>
<i>Worshipping on Sunday, December 8: 133</i>	
<i>Worshipping on Advent, December 11: 160</i>	
<i>If you have any questions, please call Jesse Ackermann</i>	

**THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL...**

*Sunday, December 15*                      *Third Sunday in Advent*

9:30 AM    *Sunday School and Bible Class*

10:45 AM    *Worship with Communion*

11:45 AM    *LWML Christmas Party*

*Monday, December 16*

4:15 PM    *A BB at St. Paul's Fairmont*

6:10 PM    *Immanuel Ringers*

7:10 PM    *Choir*

*Tuesday, December 17*

4:15 PM    *B BB at home vs. St. Paul's Truman*

*Wednesday, December 18*

12:30 PM    *ILS Christmas Service*

2:10 PM    *Confirmation*

6:30 PM    *ILS Christmas Service*

8:00 PM    *Board of Elders Meeting*

*Thursday, December 19*

5:30 PM    *Board of Ed Meeting*

5:30 PM    *Board of Trustees Meeting*

*Sunday, December 22*                      *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

9:30 AM    *Sunday School and Bible Class*

10:45 AM    *Worship*

*Monday, December 23*

**NO SCHOOL**

*Tuesday, December 24*                      *Christmas Eve*

**NO SCHOOL - OFFICES CLOSED**

4:00 PM    *Sunday School Christmas Service*

*Wednesday, December 25*                      *Christmas Day*

**NO SCHOOL - OFFICES CLOSED**

10:45 AM    *Worship with Communion*

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