



“But you,
Bethlehem...
out of you
will come
a ruler who
will be the
shepherd
of my people
Israel.”

MATTHEW 2:6

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Immanuel Lutheran Church - LCMS

Lakefield, Minnesota

December 22, 2024

Hymn: 354 Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, 1598, Hamburg, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Opening Versicles

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

C Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.

L Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Make His paths straight.

L Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

C Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

C 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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(Four Advent candles are lit.)

P O Lord, today we light the candles for hope, peace, joy, and love. 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: 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

Readings From Holy Scripture

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

L A reading from Micah, the fifth chapter.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;

then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the
strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be
great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Immanuel Ringers

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Psalm

Psalm 80:1–7

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might
and come to save us!
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
O LORD God of hosts,
**how long will you be angry with your people's
prayers?**
You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 10:5–10

When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will,
O God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39–45

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

Gospel Hymn:

Luke 1:46-56

934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

Text: Luke 1:46-55; adapt. Stephanie K. Frey, 1952

Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002984

Tune: Public domain

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory

L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C This is the name by which He will be called: **The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

L He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

C This is the name by which He will be called: **The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C This is the name by which He will be called: **The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

Stand

The Christmas Creed

☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as our Savior on Christmas Day.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the wise men, who lived to suffer and die.

He rose again from the dead to free us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, And by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to live under Him as my king, both now and forevermore. Amen.

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 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.**

Sit

Hymn: 346 When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con - dem - na - tion,
2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres - sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

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Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

Stand

Prayer

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

L Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for the Word

L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Morning Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.
Amen.

Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠
Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

Hymn: 332 Savior of the Nations, Come *sts. 1–3, 8*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
△ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546;
(sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006;
(st. 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
Text (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (st. 8): © 1978 Concordia
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Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

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Assisting with the Service

Preacher Rev. Noel Herr

Elder Jim Berkevich

Organist Brenda Matasovsky

Acolyte Mathias Liepold & Zadi Farmer

Usher Ron Gettler & Merle Hendricksen

We Remember in our Prayers

Those who have lost loved ones over the past year

Immanuel in the Call process for a Pastor

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

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE you may contact Pastor McDonald directly (507-993-1113 or mcdonald.david66@yahoo.com), Amy in the church office (507-662-5718 or 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.

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.



WISHING YOU A MERRY
Christmas
LET'S CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR!
Christmas Day Worship
10:45 a.m.
Pre-Service Christmas Music
& Carol Sing starts at 10:20 a.m.

DEAR MEMBERS,

As part of the Call Committee, I wanted to let you know that we're working hard to find a pastoral candidate that we believe God wants us to have at Immanuel. This is very time consuming, but vital in our search. We did an intensive study to give us direction of what we're looking for. Some may wonder, what are we doing wrong, or why do we have so many pastors decline? All we can say is God has not revealed and isn't finished preparing His Pastor for us yet. It can be deflating to get our hopes up and then get declined, but it is part of the process. We must remain faithful and patient. Remember, we are still being fed with the Word and Sacrament while in vacancy.

Another issue is the extreme shortage of shepherds. Do you know that just our MN South District currently has 20 congregations looking for a Pastor? And that's not counting the 3 churches who just had a Pastor accept.

Please don't lose heart. God will send the Pastor we need in His time, not ours. Amy was gracious enough to include a prayer asking for God's guidance. Your call committee asks that you pray without ceasing, bringing our petitions to Him who will answer those prayers. Continually lift up our church in prayer as we continue this vacancy. Continue coming to worship and supporting Immanuel. As God reminds us in **1 Thessalonians 5:15-18 - Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

Alan Salzwedel
Immanuel Call Committee

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!*

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

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. Bible Class time will change time to follow church after the New Year.

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**



God's Christmas



Sunday School Christmas Service

**Tuesday, December 24
4:00 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.

2024 CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

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

Board of Education: Jonah Dagel, 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, Danielle Rossow

Congregational Chairman: Kurt Swanson

Congregational Secretary: Kerry Sydnes

Thank you to Danielle Rossow for coming forward to fill in the empty seat on the Board of Congregational Services.

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

THANK YOU so much for the prayers, cards, and phone calls I received after my fall on September 18th.

God's blessings to all, Loretta Palmer

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.*

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who have donated to the ILS kitchen, with unprecedented generosity. All friends who want the kitchen to succeed, gave above and beyond what my imagination could have ever witnessed. Since this school year began donations have not ceased to come in. To say thank you for them does not seem enough. Nevertheless, getting to cook in the ILS kitchen has been just pure joy.

- Pat Pohlman

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!

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.

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.

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 by the tree 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.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

- NO SCHOOL – CHRISTMAS BREAK – Monday 12/23 through Wednesday 1/1
- Parent Teacher League (PTL) meets Thursday 1/2 at 6:00 p.m.

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

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.

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.

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:

- *Can people who are baptized but believe be saved? In the Bible it says if you believe and are baptized you will be saved. What if you are not baptized?*

All who believe and are baptized will be saved. I think the person didn't write down the word "not" somewhere in the question. This happens all the time where my thinking goes so fast as I'm typing a sentence that I forget to type one of the words. Both of these questions are great questions. There are two places the word "not" could be placed in the first sentence. Either it is before the baptized or before the believe. If we place it before the baptized it is the same as the second question. Can a person be saved if they believe but are not baptized? What does the Bible say? In Ephesians 2:8-9 God tells us that we are saved by grace through faith, and this is not of ourselves but is a gift of God, not of works so that no one may boast. Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes from hearing, hearing the words of Christ. So one can be saved simply by hearing what Jesus did to save them and believing it. Anyone who hears the words of Christ will want to be baptized, since He tells His Christians that is how disciples are made. So let me give you a few examples to help answer these questions:

Someone who has heard the word and is on the way to church one morning to be baptized, but is in a car accident on the way and killed. That person is saved because he was holding on to the promises of Christ. Someone has heard the word but is too busy in life to make an appointment to get baptized. This brings doubt

as to whether he is saved or not. It is not as important in his life to listen to Jesus as to live his life.

Someone has heard the word but refuses to be baptized because he's afraid of water. Again, doubt rises because baptism and faith are tied together. Any time we separate them, we put doubt into our minds.

Now, as to the second option, the question, "Can people who are baptized but do not believe be saved?" No, they cannot. Since baptism is part of believing Christ's words, once a person stops believing he or she has thrown the belief, or faith, away. We continue to pray for them, but until they repent they are not saved. Once they repent, their baptisms cover them again and they do not need to be rebaptized. God is merciful and loves to rejoice at every sinner repenting and returning to Him.

POINTS OF INFORMATION *December 15, 2024*

<i>Current Fund received this past week.....</i>	\$10,371
<i> Needed each week.....</i>	\$18,504
<i>Non-budget giving</i>	
<i> Poinsettia.....</i>	\$18
<i> Building.....</i>	\$26
<i> School Lunch.....</i>	\$50
<i> Rent Donation.....</i>	\$100
<i>Memorial given in memory of</i>	
<i> Delores Steffen to Immanuel Church.....</i>	\$315
<i>Current Fund needed for November.....</i>	\$74,016
<i>Offering Received in November.....</i>	\$58,620
<i>+ Tuition Received in November.....</i>	\$5,303
<i>= Current Fund Total November.....</i>	\$63,923
<i> Worshipping on Sunday, December 15: 105</i>	
<i> Worshipping on ILS Christmas at 12:30: 291</i>	
<i> Worshipping on ILS Christmas at 6:30: 308</i>	
<i>If you have any questions, please call Jesse Ackermann</i>	

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL...

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*

Thursday, December 26

NO SCHOOL

Friday, December 27

NO SCHOOL

Sunday, December 29

10:45 AM *Worship*

12:00 PM *Board of Finance Meeting*

Monday, December 30

NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, December 31

NO SCHOOL – OFFICES CLOSED

Wednesday, January 1

NO SCHOOL – OFFICES CLOSED

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