



Welcome to Immanuel

3rd Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens

December 14th 2025
9:00am

Immanuel Welcomes You to Worship with us Today!

Notes for your time in worship...

We are glad that you have chosen to be in the Lord’s house today and pray that God will bless you in this time of worship.

The words, “*Stand,*” and “*Sit,*” are for those who are able.

If you are a guest, we ask that you please complete a green Visitor Card, found in the card rack on the back of the pews, and place it in the offering plate.

We are delighted that you’re here and hope to see you again!

Why a service for the “Hanging of the Greens”?

Almost 2,000 years ago, a group of sleepy shepherds were watching over their sheep on a star-brightened hillside in Palestine. It was filled with strange light. The stillness was broken by angel voices singing, “Glory to God in the Highest, on earth peace, good will to men.” So began a most beautiful and meaningful religious festival: Christmas.

Christmas actually begins after Advent, the season through which we still are moving. The season of Advent, the season of going toward the birth of Christ, and Christmas, the time of God’s physical entrance into our world, both have a long history. Like a great cathedral, these seasons and their customs have developed through many centuries. Old customs and observances are refined, renewed, replaced; new ones are added. Some of our customs have pagan

origins but have been “converted” by redefinition of their meanings. What is significant for us is not “what they may once have meant” but rather what they mean for us today.

Today our Church building will begin to wear its Christmas apparel. Our Chancel tree stands in the chancel. Its lights will shine for us today. We make ready for the birthday of the King, much as we would make ready for a banquet with a royal host, by dressing in our best apparel. We are mindful that, although it is not Christmas yet, it will be here very soon.

As we decorate the Church this day, we celebrate God’s presence among us in the gift of the Christ Child. May these adornments and symbols of Christian distinction beautify our Advent and Christmas worship to the glory of God!

From Your AudioVisual Team...

Our worship today will be livestreamed for those members and friends that are unable to join us in person. By entering the Sanctuary, you give permission to Immanuel Lutheran Church and School to film or photograph you, and any minor children under the age of 18, and use your likeness on our social media channels and website.

If you would like to limit your time on camera please sit towards the back of the Sanctuary or off to either side.

Offerings

are given as a response of all God’s gifts given to us.

As a member of Immanuel, we are called to support the mission and ministry of ILCs.

If you are a guest or visitor this day, please know that there is no expectation for you to give.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”

—2 Corinthians 9:7-8

This week we pray for...

Immanuel Lutheran School

- Mrs. Bacher & Mrs. Baker’s Middle-Schoolers Logan, Naika, Sebastian, Lydia, Mikayla, Tye, Blake, Ann, Riley, Garth, Isabella, Isaac, Sophia, Christopher, Franco, Simon

- Sandy
- Thomas Hoefflein
- Julian Wahlberg
- Barbara & Family of Robb
- Carolyn Heagle
- Paul Sulich
- Sheyanne, Peter, Cheryl, Michele, & John
- Reagan

- Joanne Archibald
- Chris Nocito
- Chris Benson
- Joyce Russotti

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus

1 Thessalonians 5:1 6-18

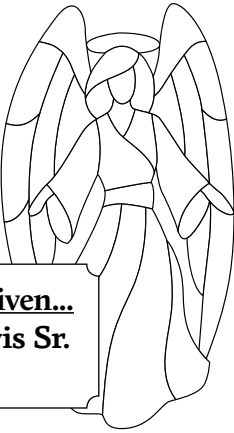
Altar Flowers today are given...

Blessings of Family by Jack & Elaine Schweitzer

Office Lights this month are given...

in Memory of John by Jan

Eternal Lights this month are given...
in Memory of Raymond Davis Sr.
by his Family



This Week + @Immanuel...

Tue. Dec. 16th

6:30pm Leadership Team Meeting

Wed. Dec. 17th

6am Men’s Mornings @Elmer’s
8:30am ILS Chapel ALL Are Welcome!
12pm Mid-Day Advent Service
7pm ILS Advent Service

Thurs. Dec. 18th

1pm TABS Bible Study
6:30pm Campus Constructors
7:30pm Parish Choir Rehearsal

Fri. Dec. 19th

3pm Girl Scouts

Sat. Dec. 20th

3pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Sun. Dec. 21st Advent 4

9am Advent Worship
10:30am Sunday School
10:30am Adult Bible Study
4pm Confirmation

Wed. Dec. 24th

8:00am- 1:00pm
American Red Cross Blood Drive
4pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
9pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thurs. Dec. 25th

10am Christmas Day Service

Prelude

“Pifa’ from ‘Messiah’”

George Frideric Händel

violins | Meg & Alex Bond

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Choral Introit

“Now Sing We Joyfully Unto God”

Gordon Young

ILC Parish Choir

Stand

Opening Hymn

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

✠ Call to Worship ✠

- P

Why are we here this day?

C

We are here this day to honor, praise, and glorify our God for the gift of His Son.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise

LSB 946 stz. 1

(Sung by the Cantor.)

- P

Why are we here this day?

C

We are here this day to worship our God—to hear again the marvelous story of the birth of His Son among us.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise

LSB 946, stzs. 2 & 3

(Sung by the Cantor & Congregation.)

- P

Why are we here this day?

C

We are here this day to repent of our sins, to prepare our hearts for the forgiveness Jesus gives us and to adorn this house of worship with greens and candles in celebration of our Advent King.

Sit

✠ Lighting of the Advent Wreath ✠

P

In a world where we often seek personal happiness, Advent beckons us to a deeper expression of our faith in Christ.

C

For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

P

Advent beckons us to remember God’s unconditional love, even when we stumble.

C

For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

P

Advent beckons us to remember God’s invitation to the human heart to be still in the face of strife.

C

For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

P

Advent beckons us to remember we always have hope, even when it seems as if our world is caving in around us.

C

For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

The first three candles are lit

This morning we light three candles. The first candle reminds us of the hope that God’s light never ceases to shine. The second candle reminds us that in a world of discord, we hear again the calming words of our Saviour, “Peace, be still.” The third candle reminds us that our joy abides in God who gently whispers to each human heart, “Come follow me, for I have come that you might have life and have it to the fullest measure!”

Messengers Before His Coming

P

The task of angels is that of delivering a message. The word “angel” means “messenger.” On this day, we will acknowledge some of the encounters people of faith have had with God’s messengers. God Himself was the first messenger—bringing the good news of salvation to Adam and Eve and promising them a Savior. Then, He called the prophets to proclaim it.

Isaiah prophesied:

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Is. 7:14)

Then, Micah wrote:

“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.” (Micah 5:2)

And then, God sent angels.

Hymn of Hope

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

(We place chrismons on the tree.)

Hymns will be sung until all decorations are in place. If necessary, the hymn will restart from the first verse.

Messengers at His Coming

Narrator:

Angels are God’s messengers to bring words of announcement, encouragement and joy. Angels appear all throughout the nativity accounts, arriving suddenly, unexpectedly, startling the person before them with their brightness, their authority and their message which comes directly from God.

Gabriel:

Do not be afraid Zechariah. I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to tell you this good news. Your prayers have been heard by God, and your wife, Elizabeth, will have a son. You are to name him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth. He will go before the Messiah in the spirit and power of Elijah, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

(based on Luke 1:8–20)

Narrator:

Now that is a birth announcement! For generations—more than 1,500 years since the days of Abraham—Israel had been waiting for the Messiah. Advent is our time each year to remember that waiting.

Hymn of Reflection

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354

(We assemble the manger scene.)

Gabriel:
Greetings, Mary! You are highly favored by God! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, because you will have a Child—the Son of the Most High. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Your Baby will be the Son of God. You are to call Him Jesus. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor, David, and His kingdom will never end. *(based on Luke 1:28–30)*

Narrator:
Mary learned many things from Gabriel in Nazareth that day. She learned that she would have a Son—God’s Son. His name was to be Jesus and He would establish a kingdom that would never end. Those who enter Jesus’ kingdom by believing in Him, receive eternal life, and we, too, will never end. Life for us will be eternal. Because God has offered us everlasting life, we use the simple evergreens to decorate at Christmas. The common evergreens remain alive all winter—they never seem to die.

Magnificat Song of Mary LSB 248
stz. 1 & 2 Cantor • stzs. 3–5 Cantor & Congregation
(We place the garland.)

2nd Angel:
Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home with you as your wife. The Baby she is carrying is the Son of God, put within her by the power of the Holy Spirit. You are to give Him the name Jesus—Savior—because He will save His people from their sins. *(based on Matthew 1:20–21)*

Narrator:
Jesus—Savior—Immanuel—God with us. One day, Joseph was a single, engaged man, a craftsman/ builder living a normal life. And the next day he was an expectant, unmarried parent, given the task of raising and protecting the only begotten Son of God. What great trust God placed in him.

Hymn of Joy Now Sing We, Now Rejoice LSB 386
(We place the bows on the pews.)

2nd Angel:
Do not be afraid, shepherds of Bethlehem. I have come with good news which will be told to all people. This very day, in David’s hometown of Bethlehem, the Savior has been born, and He is Christ, the Messiah and Lord. And this is how you will know you have found Him: He will be wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. *(based on Luke 2:8–12)*

Narrator:
What an exciting time! Into the ordinary, simple life of shepherds came the extra-ordinary—the incredible—the overwhelming! Finally, an answer to the needs of a sinful world. A Savior has been born. Good news! Joyful news! Christmas is a time of joy, because God has made a way for us to be forgiven. And Jesus is that way.

Hymn of Peace Gentle Mary Laid Her Child LSB 374
(We trim the balcony.)

Angel 3: Glory to God! *Angel 5:* Peace on Earth! *Angel 8:* Good News indeed!
Angel 4: Praise be to God the Most High! *Angel 6:* Good News!
Angel 7: Good News!

A Savior has been born to you! *(based on Luke 2:13–14)*

Narrator:
Good news indeed! Not only one angel, but a whole company praising God in joyful chorus.

Hymn of Proclamation Angels from the Realms of Glory LSB 367
(We place angels on the tree.)

Messengers Today

Narrator:
The angels, God’s messengers, did their job well. They told the good news and now we must be messengers for the Christ-child in the world today.

Hymn of Light O Sing of Christ LSB 362
(We light the candles.)

Offertory *“The King Shall Come”* *arr. Robert A. Hobby*
ILC Parish Choir *with Liturgical Dance from Ivy Anderson*

Stand

Prayer

P O God, just as the angels on that first Christmas declared the great news of salvation, help us to be messengers of the true meaning of Christmas. Keep its meaning clear to us and keep us from being secular and materialistic in our own celebrations.

May the cordial greetings which pass from friend to friend echo the song of the angels, “Peace on Earth; Good-will to men.” May the carols we sing and hear this season bring us closer to the shepherds who cared for their flocks and visited the manger in adoration, and returned praising and glorifying God.

Turn our deeper thoughts to others, so that we may help those less fortunate than ourselves find all the things we hope to find—good-will, peace, love and joy.

We seek the peace that His coming imparts as all authority has been given to Him. We seek the joy that His coming inspires, for in Him swells all of God’s fullness. We seek the love that His coming brings, as He gave Himself without reservation.

Grant to all of us peace and love, and help us to know that You alone can give us the peace that will pass all understanding. Help us, O God, to prepare ourselves to come to Christmas, the birthday of Your Son. Hear us as we pray:

C 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.

Holy Gospel Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

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

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Blessing

P The greens have been hung in their places and your songs are sung. As you get ready to depart, take this benediction with you:

As the star brightened the Eastern skies, making a way for wise men, be a light in your world, bearing Christ’s light. And, as the wise men bore their gifts, be the gift of love to those you meet.

As the shepherds gave their worship, live in humility and simplicity, that the Word of God may come to you, and the needs of your neighbors be understood.

As the animals shared their stable and manger of straw, find comfort in the simple treasures of your life and joy in sharing them.

As the angels sang their songs in the skies, so let your life be a glad song, telling all that God has done for you. For Christ is born and is come to us. Alleluia!

May the grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, His new-born Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit, guide you through this Advent season and all the seasons of your life.

C Alleluia! Amen!

Closing Hymn	Hark the Glad Sound	LSB 349
Postlude	<i>“Postlude on ‘Hark the Glad Sound’”</i>	<i>Robert J. Powell</i>

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School Hanging of the Greens 2025

We thank those who serve today in worship:

Service Coordinators: Lori Woodruff and Jen Williams	Presiding Minister & Preacher: Pastor Ryan	Ushers: Greg Tausch, Renate Roehl, and Chris Voigts
Readers: Colleen Oakes <i>Narrator</i> Michael Roehl <i>Gabriel</i> Tim Schultz <i>2nd Angel</i>	Acolyte: Maine Oakes	Greeter: Diane Wardenburg
Liturgical Dancer: Ivy Anderson	Organist/Minister of Music: Oyeniran Oyedeji	Altar Guild: Margaret Lagas and Lee Hieb
Dance Coordinator: Diane Wardenburg	Cantor: T.J. Keller	Audio & Visual: (a) Ted Booth (v) Zach Booth
	Violin: Meg & Alex Bond	
	Percussion: Norma Lopez-Burton Ani Yapoujian	



Thank you to Joel and his crew that helped in the first wave of setup for the Hanging of the Greens.

Thank you to the planning crew!

Thank you to Lori & Jen for orchestrating the Hanging of the Greens and all their work getting everything ready for today.

Thank you from Supportive Hands!

We mailed 13 college students their cookies and treats, with financial support from a Thrivent Action Team.

Thank you for participating in Supportive Hands Cookie baking and assembly for our college students and Cathy's extra supplies and Stephanie's beautiful card.



ILS PTL Fundraising Event

RAFFLE TICKET PURCHASE AND TREE VIEWING:

TODAY after Worship | TUESDAY Dec. 16th 3PM - 4PM | WEDNESDAY Dec. 17th 6:15PM - 7PM & 8PM- 8:30PM

PRE ORDER TICKETS USING VENMO (@ILS-PTL) or the QR code to the right -->



\$10 FOR 5 TICKETS | \$20 FOR 15 TICKETS | \$30 FOR 25 TICKETS

Drawing Winners and Pick Up:

Winners will be drawn at 8:30am on Thursday, December 18th. Winners will notified via e-mail.

Winners can pick up their item(s) immediately following the drawing until December 19th by 3:30PM. Winners must provide the raffle ticket matching our records in order to claim their item(s).



As of November, 2025, giving envelopes are no longer being distributed by the church. This change is being made to save a significant amount in our budget.

If you contribute with a check and your name is not printed on the check, put the check into a plain envelope with your name written on it.

If you contribute cash, place the cash into a plain envelope with your name written on it.

If you'd like to switch to using your bank's bill paying system, you can set up a new payee with the church's address.

If you'd like to use on-line giving, use the Vanco system via the QR code. Please note that there is a fee associated with each donation via the Vanco system. This reduces the amount Immanuel will receive unless you choose to cover that fee as you process the donation. 4% for card or 1% for ACH.



The Quilters want to say a very big thank you to everyone for supporting the Christmas Bazaar. It was fun to share the sewn items with you. We saw lots of smiles. Your generosity overwhelmed us. \$703 was raised. A donation was made to Orphan Grain Train because we take the finished quilts to them for distribution. The remaining money was divided between church and school. Thank you again Immanuel family.



ILS Advent Service Wed. Dec 17th @7^{pm}

We welcome back another favorite this year, the ILS kids Advent Service!

The kids of Immanuel Lutheran School will share, with us, the message of Christmas.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Sat. Dec 20th @3^{pm}

Join Immanuel for a simple service that offers the Word of God expressed through narrations and beautiful music.

After the service, we invite you to stay for a time of fellowship.

We will be taking up a freewill offering to help support the ongoing work of Immanuel's Music Ministry.

Join us!

DIVINE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday mornings at 9:00 am

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

Sunday mornings at 10:30 am *(with classes for all ages)*

Kids PreK-6th Grade meet on the red pew in the hallway

Adult Bible Study in the **Family Life Center**

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN **CHURCH & SCHOOL**

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Pastor Ryan Oakes

Principal Vickie Baker

Director of Parish Music Oyeniran Oyedele