



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, 9:30 am, Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, 6:00 pm Services

## Second Sunday in Advent

Welcome to worship! Please complete a Connection Card and place the card in the offering plate. Thank you!

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*The Light Will Come*

Choir

*(Please stay seated.)*

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

#### Week Two: Peace

Because of war, because of violence in our communities, because there is still so much unrest in our hearts, we light a candle of peace...Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have not yet been remade into ploughshares, we light a candle of peace... May the light from this candle overwhelm the world. May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven. Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

### ADVENT HYMN

*Wait for the Lord (sing 3 times)*

#262

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GREETING

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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.*

*Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)*

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God. **Word of Life. Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 85: 1-2, 8-13

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

### SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you

are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God. **Word of Life. Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are comfortable.)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

## GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

The holy gospel according to...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## SERMON

**Pastor Bre Kinnunen**

*(Please stand as you are comfortable.)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Prepare the Royal Highway*

**#264**

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

*Renew our lives that we may welcome and care for one another and that we may live and serve within the greater community of Negaunee and the world, witnessing to others your abundant love, grace, and welcome.*



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal (*especially*). Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season (*especially*). Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## MEAL

### OFFERING

*(Please stand as you are comfortable.)*

### OFFERING SONG

*My Soul in Stillness Waits*

*Kitty Raymond*

### OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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



\***SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CONVERSATION** Each **Sunday** morning at **11:00am**, a group meets for a discussion on the Bible lessons from that morning's worship service. They will be meeting in the Youth Room (downstairs) for 1 hour. A group of people has volunteered to lead these discussions. Today the leader is *Ben Raymond*. Here is a listing of the up-coming leaders for the Sunday Morning Bible Conversations: Dec. 17-Hayley Smith; Dec. 24-????; Dec. 31-Andrew Crow-Roberts. This group continues meeting each Sunday until further notice.

\***TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY RESUMES** All are welcome to come to our study on **TUESDAYS** from 7:30pm-9:00pm at **Pasquali's** in Negaunee. We welcome you to drop in as your schedule allows. Each week's discussion will be structured as a stand-alone study. Bring your questions, confusions, and doubts! This week, **Tuesday, December 12**, we are digging into this story: ***Joseph's Rise to Power: Genesis 40, 41***. If you have questions, call or text 540-435-4915.

\***ELEVATOR 'OUT-OF-COMMISSION'**: The elevator is NOT USEABLE. Work is being done to retrofit the elevator with a new lift. The company we are working with is A4 Access. 80% of the work is complete. We have run into issues to complete the final 20%. There has been an add-on cost of \$7,500 due to a State of Michigan Code change. Martin Saari and members of the Property Committee are diligently working to bring this project to completion. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

\***COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP DINNER** The Wesley United Methodist Church, 801 Hemlock Street in Ishpeming is hosting a *Community Fellowship Dinner* from **5:00pm to 6:30pm on Thursday, December 14th**. For more information please call 486-4681.

\***"GOT SNEAKERS??"** We are collecting used ATHLETIC SNEAKERS which are then sent to a company that reuses those that are still usable and recycles those that aren't. There is currently a bag in the Stewardship corner where they can be deposited. Thank you for your donation.

\***SUNDAY SCHOOL BAPTISM AND PRAYER PROJECT** These several weeks, the Sunday School students have been learning about Baptism and Prayer. In Baptism we are adopted into God's family. All of you in the congregation are all their big brothers and big sisters in God's family! Prayer is talking and listening to God. It is good to talk to God about our family. Here are the ways you can help with this Project: (1) Select a dove (or several) with children's names and photos from a bulletin board in the entry way. Please take it home and pray for the child. (2) There are shell cutouts with the bulletins. Please put your name (and names of anyone else for whom you would like the children to pray) one per shell. Put your shells in the offering basket. May we all experience God's renewing power as we pray for each other!

\***CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** The order form for your poinsettias is included in this bulletin. Remember your loved ones with a poinsettia this Christmas season. Return your order form by **December 20th** to be included in the poinsettia booklet acknowledging your donation.

\***ANGEL TREE PROJECT** This Christmas, we are again sponsoring the *Angel Tree Project* where gifts are purchased for children of incarcerated individuals. You can help to show God's love by being an *Angel* and selecting a child's name to buy a gift for. The cost of each should be about \$25.00 and we try to get some type of clothing for them and also some type of activity/toy they would like to receive. This year we have 15 children ranging in age from 1-16 years old. If you can, call the office or stop by to select an individual, purchase and wrap the gift, returning the gift to the office by the **week of December 11th**, so it can be delivered or mailed for Christmas. Thank you for your consideration and help.

\***THE PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE** will be held on **Saturday and Sunday, December 16-17** from **Saturday 8:00am to Sunday 8:00am**. Please sign up on the sign up sheet by the office for a time to come to the church to pray for peace. With all of the increased violence nationally, take time

to pray for peace in our lives, our families, our nation and our world. We encourage you to make a commitment by signing up or drop by the sanctuary to pray. (The front doors on the corner of US41 and Baldwin Avenue will be the doors to use.)

\* **ELCA ADVENT GOOD GIFTS TREE** is by the Fellowship Hall. Through ELCA Good Gifts we can help a family with independence and sustainability. There are various ornaments on the Good Gifts tree - goats, pigs, fruit tree, school supplies, etc. Your donations can be placed in the offering plate for this project OR you can go to the ELCA Good Gifts web page and order your gift. <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

\* **CHRISTMAS DECORATING** will take place on **Thursday, December 14 at 9:00am.**

\* **BEACON DEADLINE** The final day to submit for the January/February Beacon is **December 18.**

\* **ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE** The final day to submit for the 2023 Annual Report is **January 18.**

\* **BELATED CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING DAY** On **Sunday, December 10th**, we will be celebrating International Accounting Day, albeit a month late. Due to our busy Sunday school schedule in November, we postponed our recognition, but we believe it's never too late to recognize and appreciate the invaluable contributions of Mary Schlicht and Noreen Collins. We invite you to join us in acknowledging the hard work and technical expertise that they bring to the table to manage the church funds and keep the books balanced.

\* **CHANGES TO CHURCH SERVICE TIMES** Starting on **Sunday, January 7** we will begin Sunday Worship Services at 6:00pm in addition to the regular 9:30am service. This service will replace the Monday night service. The last Monday night service will be December 18.

\* **IMMANUEL WELCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** will be held on **Thursday, December 21 at 12:30pm** in the lower level quilting room.

\* **JOINT ABIGAIL AND MIRIAM CIRCLE MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday, December 19 at 12:30pm.** There will be a potluck with Gather Magazine Bible study to follow.

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### **KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

***Pray For: Lori Bell, Betty Carilli, Kevin Carlson, Karen Couture, Dan Hendrickson, Betty Kinnunen, Michael Kjellman, Anna Laurila, Don & Mary Leece, Jessica Luck, Kathryn Madison, Diane Nault, Gerald Neldon, Ezra Newman, Stephanie Penhale, Shirley Pizziola, Jim Ritzenhein, Jessica Roberts, Marlene Romback, Louise Spickerman, Kathy Stambaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Taseris, Bob Walker.***

***Our Shut-ins: Bettie Ahola, Jonelle Collins, Rudy Gagnon, June Jarvi, Timothy Kjellman, Betty Lukkarinen, Butch Pynnonen, Dolores Reichel, Lillian Rivers, Paul Alan Smith, Elsie Suardini, Lynne Tossava.***

***Members in the Armed Service: Luke DeWitt, Adrianna Gustafson, Michael Gustafson, Spencer Harvala, Hunter (Jessica) Hetrick, Dennis Koski, Tanner Romback, Michael Sedlock, Ethan Wallner, and all Armed Services Families.***

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## VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN SERVICE

SERVING IN WORSHIP: *Pastor Bre Kinnunen*

ORGANIST/PIANIST/MUSICIAN:  
Sunday & Monday - *Connie Scanlon*

**Worship Services:** Sunday @ 9:30am / Monday @ 6:00pm  
**Office Hours** are 8:00am-2:00pm, Monday-Thursday (or by appt.)

### ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE:

9:30am GREETERS	- <i>Mike Frustaglio</i> - <i>Dean Patron</i>	6:00pm - <i>Reuven Romback</i> - <i>Kevin Crupi</i>
9:30am USHERS	- <i>Mike Frustaglio</i> - <i>Dean Patron</i>	6:00pm - <i>Reuven Romback</i> - <i>Kevin Crupi</i>
9:30am LECTOR	- <i>Mike Frustaglio</i>	6:00pm - <i>Sheila Meier</i>
9:30am COMM ASST'S	- <i>Dana &amp; Sally Echelbarger</i> - <i>Walter Scanlon</i>	6:00pm - <i>Sheila Meier</i>
9:30am Tech Team	- <i>Luanne Skrenes</i>	

**YOUR 2024 DONATION BOX CAN BE PICKED UP.**  
**THEY ARE LOCATED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**  
**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR BOX. (If you cannot find one and you would like one, please contact the office and they will prepare one for you.) THANK YOU!**



**WEEKDAY PLAYGROUP @ IMMANUEL** We have had an inquiry about Immanuel having a weekday playgroup for preschool children. We are in the discussion stage- not ready to begin yet. However in the meantime, **there is an existing Playgroup that meets at Lakeview School**. We just saw the flyer, so we do not have any details. Please call Lakeview Elementary School (906-475-7803) if you need more information. The info we have is: Negaunee **Birth-Age 5 Playgroup**, Lakeview Elementary School, **Dates:** 12/8, 1/26, and 3/15. **Time:** 9:30-11:00 a.m. Things to note: Parent/guardian required to stay and participate in activities. Also, when Negaunee Public Schools are cancelled, Playgroup is also cancelled.



## DECEMBER'S MONTHLY MISSION

**IN DECEMBER, our mission emphasis is Room at the Inn, our area emergency night shelter for adults.**

Room at the Inn opened Marquette's first ever permanent homeless shelter on December 24, 2020 above the Room at the Inn Warming Center. Local churches had operated a rotating shelter between churches for nearly 14 years. The improved shelter is a 30-bed emergency shelter with 24/7 shelter access. Over 1600 meals are served per month.

The Warming Center continues to provide a warm and friendly location for shelter guests to gather, socialize, eat and - of course- to warm up during cold days.

Room at the Inn provides food, shelter and assistance for individuals transitioning out of homelessness. Room at the Inn serves primarily Marquette area residents.

Donations of money and food for meals is much appreciated. Food donations are under stricter regulation so best to check directly with Room at the Inn or check the Beacon for suggestions. Volunteers are always welcome!

If you wish to give above-and-beyond to this mission, please use December's mission emphasis envelope from your offering envelope box or in some other way designate your gift. *Thank you for your generosity!*



Thank you for giving \$735 in November to the  
**Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Operations & Maintenance.**  
The recipients will be richly blessed with your generosity! Thank you!





